Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 311 | THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Would you agree to the marine monument proposal if the CNMI regains local control of its submerged lands?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

37 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

World Cheers

Barack Obama's Kenyan relatives erupted in cheers Wednesday, singing "We are going to the White House!"

NATION...Page 16

No to Monument

President Bush's vision to declare two vast areas of the Pacific Ocean as marine monuments is running into resistance.

ENVIRONMENT...Page 18

Change comes to America

Triumphant Obama turns to sobering challenges

By TERENCE HUNT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—His name etched in history as America's first black president, Barack Obama turned from the jubilation of victory to the sober challenge of leading a nation worried about economic crisis, two unfinished wars and global uncertainty.

See CHANGE on Page 4

AP

President-elect Barack Obama takes the stage to deliver his victory speech at his election night party at Grant Park in Chicago, Tuesday night, Nov. 4, 2008.

RELATED NEWS

- Text of Obama's, McCain's speeches. **PAGE 11**
- Next up after Obama win, governing. **PAGE 14**
- Four years after debut, Obama takes his place. **PAGE 14**

WHAT'S AHEAD

- Dec. 9: Deadline for states to resolve issues regarding election recounts, controversies or contests.
- Dec. 15: Electors meet in their states to cast votes for president and vice president. They are not required by federal law to follow the will of the popular vote in their state.
- Dec. 24: Deadline for designated officials, such as the president of the Senate and others, to have the electoral votes in hand, though states do not face any legal penalty if they don't comply.
- Jan. 6: Congress meets to count the electoral votes. The president and vice president must win a majority of electoral votes, or 270, to be elected. If there is no majority, the House selects the president, and the Senate selects the vice president.
- Jan. 20: President-elect is sworn into office.

Absentee votes are not likely to upset Kilili win

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Sablan

The outcome of absentee voting for the Northern Marianas' first-ever congressional delegate is expected to uphold the victory of independent candidate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan in the election precincts.

Election results will not be final until

See ABSENTEE on Page 4

Scenes from Delegate Elections

Delegate candidate John Oliver Gonzales, left, poses with his supporters at a tent set up near a polling station on Nov. 4, 2008.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Delegate candidate Chong M. Won, fourth from right, flashes the victory sign as he poses with supporters alongside a road leading to a polling station.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Delegate candidate Juan T. Lizama, left, together with his supporters, waves to passing motorists on Election Day, Nov. 4.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Delegate candidate Gregorio Kilili Sablan is joined by supporters to wave to passing motorists.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Supporters of delegate candidate Luis Crisostimo pose beside a giant poster of the senator.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Retired judge Juan Manibusan poses with fellow supporters of delegate candidate John Oliver Gonzales. Manibusan headed the Campaign to Elect John Oliver Gonzales Committee.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Brilliant Star School

Annual Yard Sale

Friday, Nov 7th 6 pm - 9pm
Saturday, Nov 8th 8 am - 11 am

Located at Grand Hotel
The place used to be
Coral Restaurant-By the Lobby

* Clothes and Shoes
* Toys and Books
* Baby Gears
* Household Items
* Furnitures
* Electronics

and much much more!!!

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Local

Fund's assets being steadily eroded–Knieriem

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

If the NMI Retirement Fund had been funded properly, it would have been worth $765 million at the end of 2007, based only on the return of assets. Instead, it was worth only $474 million.

Yesterday the Fund was worth just $330 million, according to Kenan Knieriem, first vice president and account executive in charge of Merrill Lynch's Institutional Advisory Division.

In a presentation to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at their monthly meeting in the Azucena Room of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Knieriem said the CNMI government underfunded the Retirement Fund by $33 million in fiscal year 2008.

"They did make some payments, they made about a little over $30 million in payments, but they're still underfunding it by $33 million, which means the benefits have to be paid for out of the Fund," he said.

With the current economic situation, there is a possibility that the stock market will not bail out the Fund next year, he said.

Knieriem said the current benefits might be too high.

"There might be some ground to give, the benefits extended or reduced," he said. "So maybe the benefits have to be changed. If they don't fund it and change the benefits, then it's going to run out of money. And then you know what happens? Everyone's taxes go up to pay the current benefits."

He said the CNMI is potentially looking at a system similar to Social Security.

"In the Social Security system there's no trust fund, it all comes out of general fund," he said. "It's a pay-go system…the money will come directly out of your paycheck to the government because there's no fund."

Knieriem said he gave the same presentation to members of the CNMI Legislature about a month ago. Approximately half the members were in attendance.

When asked how lawmakers responded to the presentation, Knieriem said there was little reaction.

"I mean I stood there for two hours, and they didn't have any real reactions," he said.

As investment custodian, Merrill Lynch supervises the Retirement Fund's nine money managers

The Fund filed a lawsuit against the government, Gov. Benigno Fitial, the Finance Department and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos in 2006 over the government's colntinued failure to remit the required employer contribution payments, now reaching over $119.6 million.

KRISTI EATON

Kenan Knieriem, first vice president and account executive in charge of Merrill Lynch's Institutional Advisory Division, speaks to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday about the NMI Retirement Fund.

Wiseman: Palauan citizens considered NMI citizens not subject to deportation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Palauan citizens who are also considered citizens of the CNMI are not subject to deportation, according to Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

Wiseman addressed the citizenship status of Palauans in the CNMI in an order he issued yesterday denying the government's petition to deport James Kintaro, a Palauan who has been convicted of five misdemeanors.

Wiseman determined that Kintaro is a citizen of the CNMI as he was able to meet all three elements of a provision in the Covenant.

The judge ruled that Kintaro was able to prove that he was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands prior to 1986 when the CNMI was established.

He said the respondent domiciled continuously in the CNMI for at least five years immediately prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth.

Finally, Kintaro was also under 18 years of age in 1975, Wiseman said.

According to court records, the CNMI government filed a deportation case against Kintaro over his conviction of five misdemeanor offenses.

The deportation hearing was held on Oct. 23, 2008. Kintaro, through counsel Jane Mack of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp., did not dispute his criminal convictions nor his Palauan citizenship.

Mack argued that Kintaro was also a CNMI citizen pursuant to the Covenant and therefore not subject to deportation.

The government, through assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell, pointed out that without a U.S. passport, the respondent could not claim citizenship of the CNMI.

In his decision, Wiseman said that pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, being convicted of two or more misdemeanors or one felony is grounds for deportation of an alien from the CNMI.

Wiseman said a passport has never been a prerequisite to a showing of citizenship.

"Many citizens never obtain a passport because they never intend on traveling outside their country's borders," he said.

Wiseman said the only question to be determined is whether pursuant to the Covenant Kintaro is a CNMI citizen and therefore not subject to deportation.

He cited Section 301(b) of the Covenant, which provides citizenship guidelines for the CNMI, saying it became effective upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the establishment of the CNMI on Nov. 4, 1986.

Wiseman said Kintaro was born in Palau in 1962 and holds a Palauan passport.

Kintaro testified that he first arrived in the CNMI from Palau in 1971, that he then departed in 1974, and returned in 1979. He further testified that he has remained in CNMI continuously since 1979.

Wiseman said Kintaro was able to show clear and convincing evidence that he was a citizen of TTPI prior to the establishment of the CNMI in 1986.

The judge said the respondent was also able to show sufficient evidence of his residency and his intent to remain in the Commonwealth.

As to the requirement that he was registered to vote in an election prior to Jan. 1, 1975 or under voting age at the time, Wiseman said the parties did not dispute that Kintaro was born on May 28, 1962, and thus, in 1975 was well under 18 years old.

‘Manual counting very time consuming’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The manual counting of votes for congressional delegate candidates at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe took the Commonwealth Election Commission seven hours to complete.

“It was very time consuming. It took us seven hours. I was hoping it would take us only six hours at the most,” CEC chairwoman Frances Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The election officials began the tabulation of votes at 12:15am. The counting was done by 7:15am.

Sablan said the counting took longer even though they kept their breaks to just five minutes each, about three to four times.

“I’m hoping that we never go through this process again, especially for next year,” she said.

Sablan said the delay could be due to the methodology or the process they used.

“When we met last week we talked about trying to be as expedient as possible. So we tried to come up with a methodology that would make it faster,” she said.

The chairperson said there are seven precincts; in some precincts, there are five different sections.

CEC implemented a four-step process in manually counting the votes.

The first step was sorting. All seven commissioners were on hands to do the sorting of votes.

Sablan said they were, however, short of two commissioners who could have helped make the sorting faster.

In step 2, election officials initially planned to take care of discrepancies like over-votes and the blank votes or those in question.

“But then after the first precinct, we decided to change it because we found out that after we had already counted, the over-votes and the blank votes and the spoiled, sometimes when we’re verifying the batch that we sorted, we found out that we had to add on and then we had to initial again and cross out. We had to change that system,” she said.

Step 3 was the actual verification or checking to make sure that what they had sorted was correct.

The final step was the counting itself.

Sablan said one other reason for the delay was that they didn’t process first those votes coming from different precincts like Rota or Tinian who came to Saipan to votes.

“They came here because of an emergency, so they voted here. There were several of those. We didn’t do that first. So what we did is, we counted precinct 7, for instance, and we thought we’re done,” she said.

Sablan said when she was checking again the valid boxes, she saw those votes so they had to sort those out and then add them to the precincts.

“That was another slight delay. But we tried to expedite that as soon as possible,” the chairperson added.

Sablan said the turnout was about 73 percent in terms of voters.

“That’s pretty good. I could just imagine when there’s actually 80 percent that came out. It would take us a little bit longer,” she said.

CHANGE

From Page 1

“The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep,” Obama cautioned.

Young and charismatic but with little experience on the national level, Obama smashed through racial barriers and easily defeated Republican John McCain to become the first African-American destined to sit in the Oval Office, America’s 44th president. He was the first Democrat to receive more than 50 percent of the popular vote since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

“It’s been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment, change has come to America,” Obama told a victory rally of 125,000 people jammed into Chicago’s Grant Park.

Obama scored an Electoral College landslide that redrew America’s political map. He won states that reliably voted Republican in presidential elections, like Indiana and Virginia, which hadn’t supported the Democratic candidate in 44 years. Ohio and Florida, key to Bush’s twin victories, also went for Obama, as did Pennsylvania, which McCain had deemed crucial for his election hopes.

With just 76 days until the inauguration, Obama is expected to move quickly to begin assembling a White House staff and selecting Cabinet nominees.

Campaign officials said Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel was the front-runner to be Obama’s chief of staff. The advisers spoke on a condition of anonymity because the announcement had not yet been made.

Obama’s victory was sweetened by Democratic gains in both houses of Congress. In the Senate, Democrats ousted Republicans Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina and John Sununu of New Hampshire and captured seats held by retiring GOP senators in Virginia, New Mexico and Colorado. Democrats scored big gains in the House, as well.

When Obama and running mate Joe Biden take their oath of office on Jan. 20, Democrats will control both the White House and Congress for the first time since 1994.

“It is not a mandate for a party or ideology but a mandate for change,” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said: “Tonight the American people have called for a new direction. They have called for change in America.”

After the longest and costliest campaign in U.S. history, Obama was propelled to victory by voters dismayed by eight years of George W. Bush’s presidency and deeply anxious about rising unemployment and home foreclosures and a battered stock market that has erased trillions of dollars of savings for Americans.

Six in 10 voters picked the economy as the most important issue facing the nation in an Associated Press exit poll. None of the other top issues—energy, Iraq, terrorism and health care—was selected by more than one in 10. Obama has promised to cut taxes for most Americans, get the United States out of Iraq and expand health care, including mandatory coverage for children.

Obama acknowledged that repairing the economy and dealing with problems at home and overseas will not happen quickly. “We may not get there in one year or even in one term,” he said. “But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there.”

McCain conceded defeat shortly after 11 p.m. EST, telling supporters outside the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, “The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly.”

“This is an historic election, and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans and the special pride that must be theirs tonight,” McCain said. “These are difficult times for our country. And I pledge to him tonight to do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges we face.”

Obama faces a staggering list of problems, and he mentioned some of them in his victory speech. “Even as we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime—two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century.” He spoke of parents who worry about paying their mortgages and medical bills.

“There will be setbacks and false starts,” Obama said. “There are many who won’t agree with every decision or policy I make as president. And we know the government can’t solve every problem.”

The son of a Kenyan father and a white mother from Kansas, the 47-year-old Obama has had a startlingly rapid rise, from lawyer and community organizer to state legislator and U.S. senator, now just four years into his first term. He is the first senator elected to the White House since John F. Kennedy in 1960.

Bush called Obama with congratulations at 11:12 p.m. EST. “I promise to make this a smooth transition,” the president said. “You are about to go on one of the great journeys of life. Congratulations and go enjoy yourself.” He invited Obama and his family to visit the White House soon.

Bush planned to make a statement about the election at mid-morning Wednesday in the Rose Garden.

With most U.S. precincts tallied, the popular vote was 51.9 percent for Obama and 46.8 percent for McCain. But the count in the Electoral College was lopsided in Obama’s favor over McCain—349 to 147 as of early Wednesday, with four states still to be decided. Those were North Carolina, Georgia and Missouri.

Obama won California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

McCain had Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. He also won at least 3 of Nebraska’s five electoral votes, with the other two in doubt.

Almost six in 10 women supported Obama nationwide, while men leaned his way by a narrow margin, according to interviews with voters. Just over half of whites supported McCain, giving him a slim advantage in a group that Bush carried overwhelmingly in 2004.

ABSENTEE

From Page 1

the absentee votes are counted on Nov. 18, 2008. The Commonwealth Election Commission had mailed out 1,118 absentee ballots and had received 655 returns as of Tuesday, Nov. 4.

But key political figures said yesterday that any of the three other candidates still remaining in the race is not likely to cut into Sablan’s lead with absentee votes.

Currently, Sablan holds a 360-vote margin over his closest rival, Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio. The other candidates who still could upset the vote count, television talk show host John Gonzales and retired judge Juan T. Lizama, are behind Sablan by 539 votes and 668 votes, respectively.

“I am humbled by the results,” Sablan said. “I am very grateful to the many people who supported me and voted for me.”

Although pleased with his relatively commanding lead, Sablan is hesitant to declare an early victory. “Traditionally, absentee ballots have been spread out among the candidates. But there’s a good number of absentee voters that have called me and told me they have cast their ballots for me. Then again, I don’t want to assume anything. We’ll just have to wait until the commission has received and counted all of the ballots,” he said.

Congratulations

In a press statement yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed confidence that the absentee ballots “would not deviate substantially from the trend seen in all election precincts counted so far.” The statement noted that Fitial himself won his gubernatorial election by 99 votes, the smallest margin in CNMI history, and managed to maintain his victory through a full counting of all absentee ballots in 2005.

“I congratulate Kilili and all of his campaign volunteers for a job very well done,” said Fitial. “And I also congratulate all of the other delegate candidates for entering the arena of politics and waging very impressive political campaigns.”

He also expressed thanks to the voters who participated in the historic election.

“I look forward to working with Kilili for the benefit of the CNMI if his election victory is sustained by the final absentee ballot count,” said Fitial.

Comfortable margin

House Floor Leader Joseph James Camacho, vice chairman of Sablan’s campaign team, said that Sablan’s 360-vote edge over Tenorio is “a comfortable lead.”

“We are very happy and grateful to all of the voters and Kilili’s supporters,” Camacho said of the election results. “Obviously, we have to wait for the absentee ballots. We look forward to those ballots being counted.”

Even Tenorio’s camp appears to have conceded the election to Sablan. Rep. Joseph Reyes, who led Tenorio’s campaign, said he would like to see the absentee votes swing the election in Tenorio’s favor, but he is not keeping his hopes up.

“Realistically, the margin is large,” Reyes said. “The people have spoken. I’m disappointed but that’s the outcome. I congratulate Mr. Sablan for winning the election.”

Yet, he expressed regret the local Republican Party went to the election divided between Tenorio and Sablan. “I just wish that the party could have worked more collectively, I suppose,” he said.

Voter turnout

Some 13,000 voters from Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands registered to vote. Of the nearly 12,000 precinct voters, only 9,408 showed up at the polling stations. Election officials consider the less-than-80 percent voter turnout to be low, although typical of non-gubernatorial elections in the Commonwealth.

A total of 114 votes were not counted mostly because there were multiple marks on the ballot or the ballot was unmarked.

Candidates

Sablan, who received 2,279 votes, served two terms in the House of Representatives in the 1980s. He also served as a special assistant for management and budget in the administration of former governor Froilan C. Tenorio. Kilili served briefly as a special assistant in the third administration of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio before he was appointed executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Tenorio, with 1,919 votes, helped negotiate the CNMI’s Covenant with the United States and was a lieutenant governor for eight years. In 2002, he started serving his first term as the CNMI’s resident representative to Washington, DC. His second term, which began in 2006, will be cut short when the new CNMI delegate replaces him in January.

Gonzales, who got 1,740 votes, is a local television talk-show host and was serving both as a division chief at the Department of Public Lands and as a deputy press secretary for Governor Fitial when he joined the delegate race. Lizama retired earlier this year as an associate judge of the Superior Court to run for the delegate seat.

The other five who ran include: Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, who got 879 votes; former senator David M. Cing from Tinian, 270 votes; Saipan municipal councilman Felipe Q. Atalig, 233 votes; businessman Chong Man Won, 219 votes; and high school teacher John Davis, Jr., 139 votes.

Crisostimo said he respects the decision of the Commonwealth, but added that he would have preferred to have been beaten by Cing, the candidate of the local Democratic Party. He maintained that a Democrat like him or Cing could best represent the CNMI in Congress, which is expected to remain under the control of the Democratic Party.

Asked about his future plans, Crisostimo said he will have another go at the delegate seat in two years. In the meantime, he will continue his Senate term.

For his part, Won said he was disappointed with the election ranking. “I thought I’d get a little bit more, but I guess the consensus of the island is [that] they’re not ready for someone that’s not local,” said the Korean-born businessman.

But he offered his congratulations to Sablan. On whether he’ll run for anything again, he said he will see. “This is a pretty good learning experience for me,” he said. ***(With Kristi Eaton)***

BOE changes its requirements for principals

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Public School System's Board of Education last week voted to change the requirements for holding the position of principal.

The change came as some BOE members were concerned about the number of acting principals in the school system, even as officials from the Western Association of Accrediting Schools and Colleges prepare to visit nine schools this year.

"It's a WASC issue," said BOE vice chair Herman Guerrero. "In terms of stability…we need to have them designated."

Previously, principals were required to pass PRAXIS I and II, hold a master's degree and obtain administrator's certification.

Under the new rules, principals must pass PRAXIS I and II, hold a master's degree and be working toward obtaining the administrator's certification.

Ramon Diaz, acting Human Resources director for PSS, said a principal holding a master's degree in education is well into the necessary courses needed for the administrator's certification.

During the meeting, board member Tanya King said she would like to see principals become PRAXIS certified in the administration area, as opposed to a subject area like math or science.

"I believe there are areas of competency, such as education law, they should be aware of," she said.

Currently, principals can be PRAXIS certified in any area, and since many principals are former teachers, many are certified in their respective specialty, she said.

King said she thinks principals should be required to take the administration test, in order to avoid future litigation.

"If you have to take two tests, one as a teacher and one as an administrator, so be it," she said.

Governor proclaims Nov. 5-11 Veterans Week

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday a proclamation declaring Nov. 5-11 as Veterans Week in the CNMI during a simple ceremony at his office's conference room on Capital Hill.

The governor called on everyone to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities in support and in honor of the CNMI's war veterans.

Fitial said the CNMI had been protected by patriots who cherished liberty and made great sacrifices to advance the cause of freedom and the brave members of the United States Armed Forces have answered the call to serve the nation, ready to give all for their country.

"On Veterans Day, we honor these extraordinary citizens for their service and sacrifice, and we pay tribute to the legacy of freedom and peace that they have given our great Nation," he said.

Fitial noted that many veterans bear the disabilities and scars of military service and the families of those who never return from their service live always with a profound sense of loss.

"It is our duty to remember what our veterans have done and to uphold our commitments to them and their families," he said.

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the Court of Honor inside the American Memorial Park on Nov. 11 starting at 11am. The Pacific Winds Concert band will begin with the ceremonial music at 10:30am.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

War veterans join Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a picture taking after he signed the proclamation declaring Nov. 5-11 Veterans Week in a simple ceremony at the governor's conference room yesterday.

The Chief of Staff for the US Pacific Command based in Hawaii, Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Tom, will be the keynote speaker.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 will be hosting a no-host barbeque of hotdogs and hamburgers as well as special promotion and raffle giveaways.

CCAC gets $283K grant to benefit local artists

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture recently obtained a Partnership Grant worth $283,300 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Former CCAC director Cecilia Taitano-Celes, who is now the Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, said the grant would be used for educational enhancement.

The amount is divided into three components: State Arts Plan ($237,300), Arts Education ($12,000), and Arts in Underserved Communities ($34,000).

The grant will run for a yearlong period from Oct. 1, 2008, to Sept. 30, 2009.

The emphasis is to support local artists in their activities.

The federally funded grant will give an opportunity for community organizations to apply for funding, with focus on arts and education, such as artwork classes.

Schools can also apply for the grant.

Taitano-Celes said requests could be made to the CCAC and the board of directors would review such requests.

Application for the grant is open to any group or institutions as long as their main objective is the preservation of the local culture such as dance performances.

Taitano-Celes said this is a historic grant for CCAC because it would provide them a way to undertake programs in preserving the culture and arts in the Marianas.

One of the programs will be the creation of books for young authors with the aim of spreading art not only on Saipan but also among the youth on Rota and Tinian.

CCAC will also continue to hold arts exhibits such as the annual Arts Pacifica at the Joeten Motors showroom.

"We will continue to do it outdoors following the success of our exhibit in October," Taitano-Celes said. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Fitial congratulates Obama, local Dems cheer

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday offered his congratulations to president-elect Barack Obama and vice president-elect Joseph Biden on winning the U.S. elections, while Democrats in the Northern Marianas cheered their candidates' victory.

Fitial

"I congratulate president-elect Obama and I look forward to establishing good working relationships with his new administration," said Fitial, who helped establish the Commonwealth's Covenant Party in 2001 after many years of membership with the NMI Republican Party.

"I am optimistic that Obama's victory will lead to positive change for the people of the CNMI, given president-elect Obama's history and relationships with the people of Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region," Fitial added.

U.S. Democratic voters living on Saipan are jubilant about the Obama win.

Adam Cafege, who voted in Hawaii where Obama grew up, partied with friends last night to celebrate the Democrats' triumph. "I feel that this is pivotal, transformational moment in American history. It shows that we've evolved as a nation. I have never been more proud to be an American," he said.

Angelo Villagomez, who cast his vote for Obama in Florida, said, "It was a well fought campaign. Obama and [John] McCain are both honorable men. But the American people decided they wanted change," he said.

For her part, former New York resident Lori Serna said Obama's victory reminded her of the day her first child was born. "I just couldn't believe it. That how I felt today when I saw Obama had won. I just started crying and laughing. It's a wonderful day. It's a day full of hope not just for America, but for the rest of the world," she said.

Five honored during Governor's Humanities Awards

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bishop Tomas A. Camacho receives a Lifetime Achievement Award from Gov. Benigno Fitial and NMI Council for the Humanities board chair Dr. Debra T. Cabrera.

Pioneering clergyman Bishop Tomas A. Camacho was presented the Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award during ceremonies held at the Pacific Islands Club last week.

Camacho received the prestigious award during the Governor's Humanities Awards ceremony co-sponsored by the Office of the Governor and the NMI Council for the Humanities.

This annual event recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses for their outstanding contributions to the humanities.

Four other individuals also received Governor's Humanities Awards from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Council board chair Dr. Debra T. Cabrera during the two-hour ceremony. They included genealogist Herman T. Guerrero, archaeologist Herman C. Tudela, historian Carlos Madrid, and educator Stephen B. Smith.

Camacho, who was ordained a priest in 1961 and consecrated the first Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in1985, was recognized for outstanding contributions made during his nearly half-century of service. Fitial made special note of Camacho's contributions as a teacher at some of the top academic institutions in the region and his longstanding efforts to preserve the Chamorro language.

Herman T. Guerrero, better known as "Jun Pan", received the Preservation of CNMI History Award for developing a comprehensive genealogy database for the Mariana Islands, which currently includes 112,200 individuals, 113 generations, and 11,000 surnames.

Herman C. Tudela, a staff member of the CNMI Division of Historic Preservation, received the Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices Award in recognition of his efforts to perpetuate traditional Chamorro fishing and conservation practices.

Spanish historian Carlos Madrid, received the Research and Publication in the Humanities Award for a project that resulted in the publication of a book documenting the events surrounding the deportation of hundreds of Spanish political prisoners to the Mariana Islands in the 1870s.

Longtime PSS teacher and administrator Stephen B. Smith received the Outstanding Humanities Teacher Award for establishing a number of humanities-based programs, including the popular forensic competitions in which hundreds of Commonwealth students participate annually.

The Humanities Council also recognized a variety of key supporters including financial donors, humanities partners, and former board and staff members including Lynnette F. Tenorio, Robert T. Torres, Rosemond B. Santos and Paz C. Younis.

Also recognized were student winners in the recently held "My Photo, My Culture" competition, an event sponsored by the Council utilizing funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. ***(PR)***

WINNERS LIST

The following is the list of winners during the 20th Anniversary Club 200 by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, held Oct. 25, 2008. According to the Red Cross, the prizes will be available for pickup at the Chapter office on Friday, Nov. 7.

PRIZE	TICKET #	WINNER
Grand Prize	1032	Teresa Palacios
1st	1518	Leslie Rodroguez
2nd	495	Geraldine Cruz
3rd	523	Jeanne H. Rayphand
4th	1405	Ly Wong
5th	319	Katie Holbrook
6th	928	Vicky Concepcion
7th	1949	Joesph C. Torres
8th	1600	Quality Distributors
9th	671	Bo T. Palacios
10th	1640	Arlene H. Pangelinan
11th	82	Michelle Lin
12th	1072	Jay Jones
13th	518	Delta Management
14th	1471	Lorna Penaredoniso
15th	424	Olivia Tenorio
16th	969	Frances Mafnas
17th	581	Pacific Basin Insurance
18th	400	George F. Camacho
19th	233	Joe C. Guerrero
20th	160	Hanna Schoor
21st	286	Winnie Lee
22nd	1423	Wai Chan(Rose)
23rd	410	Yong Woong Park
24th	878	Rita M. Taitano
25th	438	Ares Blancia
26th	690	Dennis Yoshimoto
27th	817	Lora M. Calvo
28th	1033	Lucy T. Sablan
29th	70	Karen Borja
30th	1207	Jeremy Sasamoto
31st	1046	Evelyn Mendiola
32nd	377	Roque Santos
33rd	1473	Jeff Taylor
34th	116	Faye Crozat
35th	110	Lily Aldan
36th	762	Augustin T. Castro
37th	1208	RNV Construction
38th	406	Vladimir Bogomzov
39th	245	Erlinda T. Dumatol

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SAIPAN SINGING SUPERSTAR 2008

Contest holds grand finals tonight at Club V

The most prestigious singing and popularity contest finals night will be held tonight, Nov. 6, 2008, 8pm at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel. The Saipan Singing Superstar is now on its second year, and 16 grand finalists are competing for the title. This activity is a culminating event staged and produced by the Saipan Grand Hotel in cooperation with PTI.

This year's contest started three months ago at the Southern Cross Bar with more than 40 contestants going through a series of eliminations during the live telecast of the Pinoy Dream Academy Season 2 on The Filipino Channel. The Saipan Singing Superstar contest itself was a based on PDA of ABS-CBN in partnership with PTI. After the elimination process, 16 contestants were trained through series of gala and performance nights.

During Week 1's gala night, the contestants were asked to sing songs of their choice. The second week featured upbeat songs; duet performances were done on the third week.

The fourth and final week, as well as the awards night, will be held tonight. This time, the 16 contestant will do production numbers with backup singers, dancers and medley songs that will highlight them as superstars.

The highest score per week is 15 points, totaling 60 points after four weeks. The remaining 40 points will be based on text voting that will also end tonight after the performances of the 16 contestants. Text vote results can be viewed real time at http://www.pticom.com/sss/.

Tonight will be an evening of multi-faceted talents and live entertainment featuring songs, dances, and production numbers prepared by the contestants.

"I'm so excited because the contestants are now preparing for their grand production number. This show will be lively and will be similar to a variety show on TV," said Oscar Yema, Saipan Grand's events and outlet manager.

The show starts at eight o'clock in the evening. Club V doors will open at 7pm. There will be a $5 cover charge with free Alize cocktails. Party follows after the announcement of winners.

The grand prize winner will get a trophy, a plaque, $1,000 cash, and $425 worth of Macatangay Dermhealth Facial package. The PTI Text Star will get a brand new cell phone from PTI. Tonight's final will be hosted by Brad Ruszala with performances from the SSS 2007 Champions.

For Club V VIP reservations and inquiries, call Marcy at 235-6616. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 16 Grand Finalists of the Saipan Singing Superstar 2008. Standing from left are Charrie Ramos, Gigi Hernandez, Jenny Sanchez, Anna Rose De Leon Guerrero, Michele Villaraza, Janee Babauta, Demalyn Sablan, Chelo Minguito, Anna Therese Tayag and Rona Bautista. Kneeling from left are Tala Lamion, Marvin Espeleta, Ricky Custudio, Wlden Beri Jr., Bernie Dizon and Donnel Isip.

12 schools will compete in X'mas tree decor tilt

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 12 elementary schools have signified their intention to join the annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest, which offers big prizes for the winners, according to the organizer, Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc., yesterday.

PDM is a non-profit corporation that aims to make the Paseo de Marianas and the Garapan vicinity a safe and clean area for tourist and the local community.

The 2008 Christmas tree decorating contest will be from Dec. 4 to Jan. 6.

The list of participating schools includes last year's first place winner, Saipan Community School; Dandan Elementary School, which won second place; Oleai, San Antonio, Garapan, Tanapag, Kagman, William S. Reyes, San Vicente, and G.T. Camacho elementary schools; Grace Christian Academy, and Joshua Generation International Academy.

For the first time, the Office of Aging (*man'amko*) will be making its presence felt in the event as a special participant.

PDM staff Sonia G. Siwa said the *man'amko* would have their own tree to decorate.

Just like in the past, the contestants will use recycled materials to decorate their entries.

This will be the third year that the contest will be held at the Paseo de Marianas, with the first place winner getting $3,000. Consolation prizes will be $500.

Prizes will be sponsored by the Tax Education Credit Program.

The Christmas light countdown and judging event will be on Dec. 4 while the awarding ceremony and finale program will be on Dec. 18.

RNV Construction will donate a giant Christmas tree that will be placed in the middle of the Paseo from Dec. 3 to Dec. 25.

For the first time, the participation of tourists will be part of the event.

A red ribbon would be provided to each tourist, who will make a wish and tie it to the Christmas tree, starting Dec. 4 to Jan. 6.

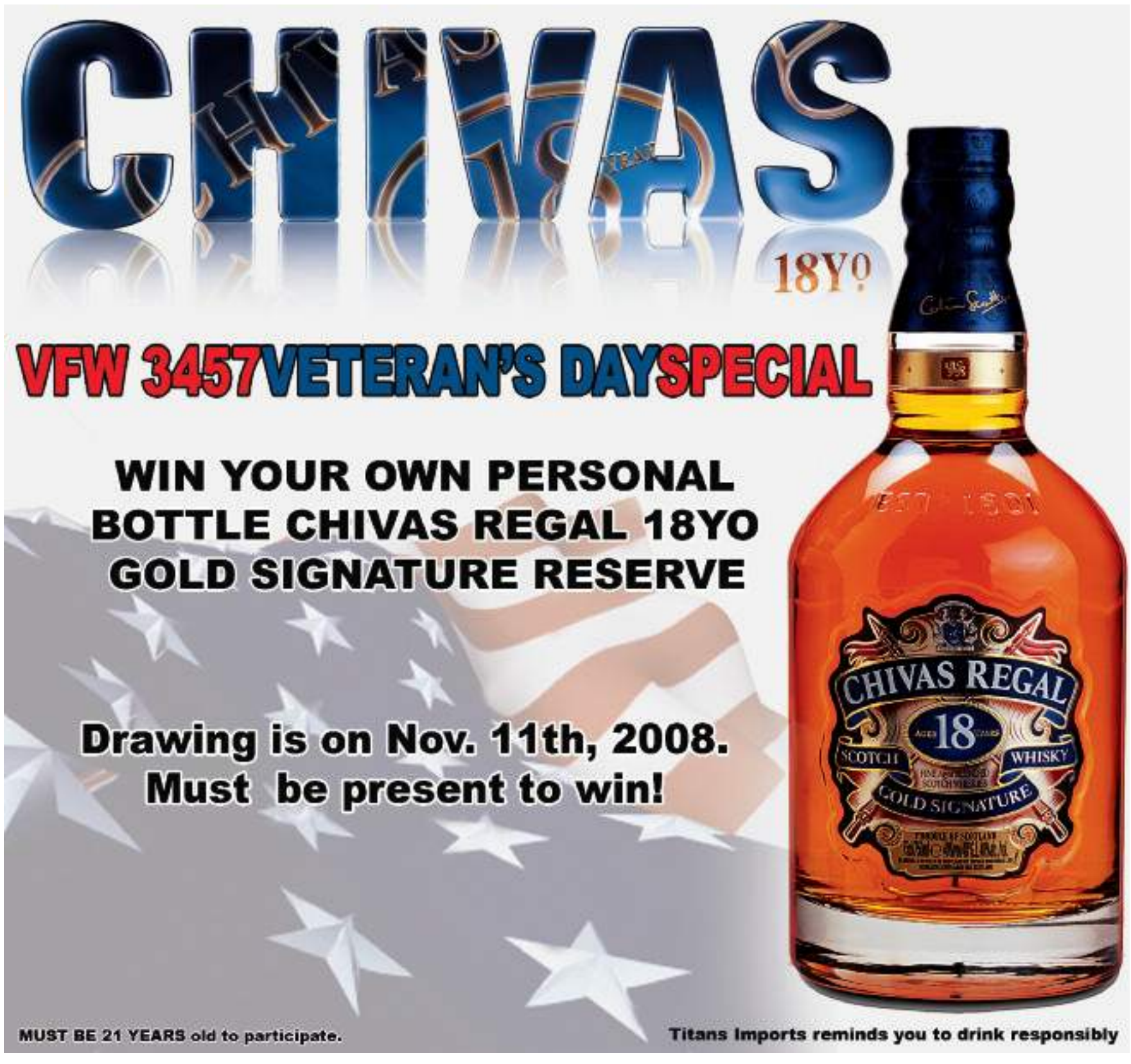
Holiday greeting banners would be hung on the lampposts of the Paseo and Garapan District from Dec. 1 to Jan. 6.

Siwa said building owners along the Paseo have volunteered to put up Christmas lights in front of their establishments.

For the second time, organizers will again hold the "My Holiday Greetings to Our Visitors" drawing contest for the school children of Rota and Tinian.

Their artwork will be displayed at a gallery along PDM.

First prize will get $50, while consolation winners will get gifts.



Project Proa names contest winners

HAGATNA, Guam—The Tourism Education Council announced yesterday the winners of the "Nihi Ta Sodda Y Proa" Let's Go Find the Proa! Treasure Hunt Contest and the Proa Poster Contest.

1st Place Winner
Entry No. 27: Juan M. Guerrero Elementary School, 3rd Grade: SYDNEY BAQUIRAN TORRENTE
Teacher: Señõra Rivera
Prize: $250 Cash Prize from Bank of Guam
Teacher receives: a $25 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

2nd Place Winner
Entry No. 20: Astumbo Middles School, 7th Grade: GENESIS KIRINO RENGULBAI
Prize: $75 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

3rd Place Winner
Entry No. 3: Okkodo High School, 9th Grade: JAENA JEAN TUPASNA SANCHEZ
Teacher: Ms. Iglesias
Prize: $ 25 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

Treasure Hunt Contest Winners

3rd Place Winner
LILIBETH IMBAT BALBAS from JFK
Prize: $ 25 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

2nd Place Winner
IRENE DELA CRUZ from JFK
Prize: $75 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

1st Place Winner
KATRINA MARIE GARRIDO QUINATA from Southern High School
Prize: $250 Cash Prize from Bank of Guam
Teacher receives: a $25 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

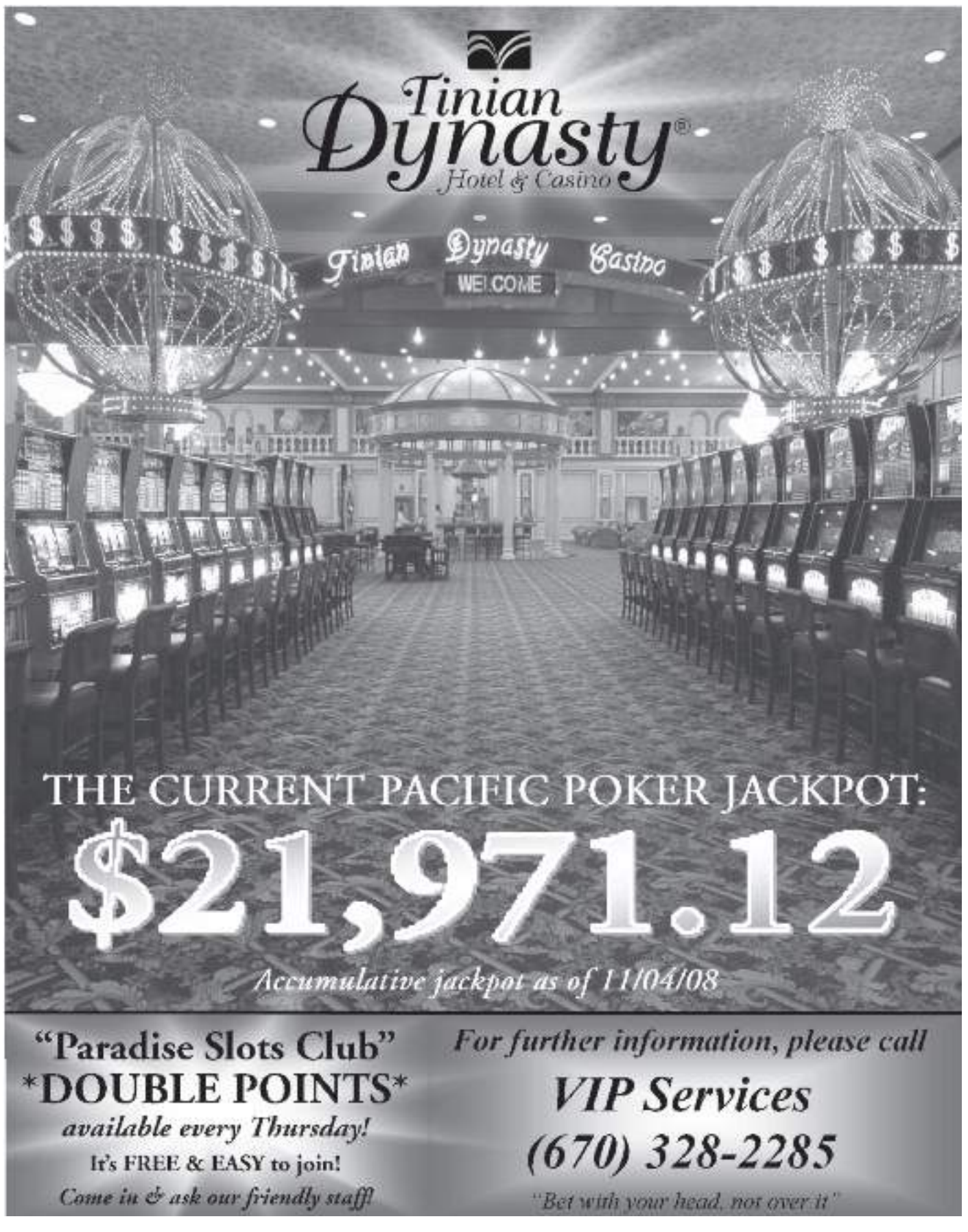
Crime of The Week

Copper wire thefts

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on any of the person(s) responsible for the following recent copper wire thefts:

On Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, DPS received a call at 12:40pm regarding a copper wire theft at two residential houses located behind Kagman High School. According to preliminary investigation, an unknown person(s) stole about 250 feet of secondary lines from two utility poles and about 185 feet of drop line wires. On the same date, DPS received a call at 2:20pm of a copper wire theft at the Retsa commercial building in As Perdido. Police learned that electrical wires were stolen from two panel boxes located on the south side of the building. Police learned that a storage room was also broken into. These cases are pending investigation.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(NMI Crime Stoppers)***



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 06, 2000

It's a landslide for BB tandem

Resident Representative to the United States Juan N. Babauta and running-mate Rep. Diego T. Benavente won by a landslide in the open primary conducted last Saturday by the Republican Party. Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and running-mate Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez immediately conceded defeat after their opponents slowly edged out and eventually led with a margin of 1,199 votes.

Pepero-Kiyu: We will respect the people's decision

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez graciously accepted their defeat in the Republican primary Saturday saying they will honor the people's decision. "I'm going to keep my word. I've told the people that I'm going to support the party and that means I'm not going to run," Mr. Sablan said, as he wished rivals CNMI Resident Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta and Rep. Diego T. Benavente the best of luck.

November 06, 2001

BB administration braces for worst

The incoming Republican administration will have their work cut out for them, as they face plunging revenues, accumulating deficit, and a crippled private sector that has yet to recover from the one-two punch of the Asian crisis and the September 11 attacks. Foremost among the priorities that the Babauta team will have to address is turning around the revenue trend, which has disturbingly been going down a slippery slope since 1997, when revenues were at their highest at $248.4 million.

Hundreds of votes fail to make it to the tally sheet

All votes could have made it to the tally sheet had Northern Marianas voters been thoroughly educated on the proper way of filling out ballots in the November 3 elections. Numerous ballots were spitted out by the newly-acquired tabulation machine due to over-voting, blank spaces and incorrect markings.

November 06, 2002

Shipping delays take toll on businesses

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is keeping a tight watch on the developments concerning labor discussions in the West Coast ports, in efforts to derail possible adverse impacts another lockout would have on the supply of foods and other necessities in the Northern Marianas. This, as some restaurants and hotels on Saipan have reportedly suspended some promotional projects due to delayed arrival of their orders from the mainland United States.

GHLI privatization talks kick off

The Babauta administration formally floated the rough draft of legislation that proposes to privatize government health insurance, in a meeting with Health, Legislature and Retirement Fund officials at the Governor's Office yesterday. The meeting officially started discussions on the possibility of letting the private sector take over a public health insurance program besieged with funding woes.

November 06, 2003

Melon flies invade NMI

Melon flies. Millions of Melon flies have invaded the islands. The situation has adversely affected agricultural production, doubling up the impact of the noxious ivy gourd that has spread to significant proportion. "Farmers are really affected," said Isidoro T. Cabrera, agricultural consultant for the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service. Currently, there are at least 135 active farmers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, he said.

Saipan-Manila flights extended until April

Citing strong consumer demand, Continental Micronesia yesterday disclosed that it would extend its direct service between Saipan and Manila, Philippines, which was scheduled to begin on Dec. 9, 2003, up to April 2004. Originally, Continental planned to offer the Saipan-Manila-Saipan nonstop flights until Jan. 16, 2004.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 311

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

The war that didn't bark

In an election dominated by economic issues, it is worth pointing out the problem that did not, after all, overshadow the presidential race: the war in Iraq. According to the *Washington Post*-ABC News tracking poll published Monday, just 9 percent of likely voters said Iraq was the most important issue in their choice for president, compared with 51 percent who cited the economy. That's a dramatic change from the 2006 midterm election, in which Iraq ranked first among voters' concerns, with 27 percent in a Pew poll citing it as the biggest issue. Even in 2004, more than 20 percent picked it.

The reason for that shift was encapsulated in a story The Post and other news organizations reported without fanfare over the weekend. In October, 13 American soldiers died in Iraq, a total that tied with August for the lowest monthly toll of the war. The number of Iraqis killed was almost certainly also the lowest in more than five years—288, by the count of the Web site iCasualties.org. In October 2006, 106 American troops and at least 1,539 Iraqis died. Simply put, the situation in Iraq has been transformed in the past two years, and voters recognize it. While 63 percent said in a November 2006 poll reported in *Newsweek* that the United States was "losing ground" in Iraq, 53 percent said in a *New York Time*s-CBS poll last week that the war was going "somewhat well" or "very well."

The irony is that the reversal of fortunes came about after President Bush ignored the message from 2006 voters and the Democratic congressional majority they elected. Instead of withdrawing U.S. troops, Mr. Bush launched the "surge" for which Republican John McCain had been pressing. Yet the biggest beneficiary of its success is not Mr. Bush, whose popularity is as low as ever, or Mr. McCain, but Democrat Barack Obama. Mr. Obama gained traction early in the Democratic primary campaign by stressing his opposition to the war and support for a 16-month withdrawal timetable. By the time his general election competition with Mr. McCain began, Iraq had faded as an issue. Mr. Obama's withdrawal proposal, which would have triggered a catastrophe in 2007 and still looked irresponsible a few months ago, now does not sound that different from what the Iraqi government and the Bush administration have lately been negotiating.

There remain important differences between Mr. Obama's strategy and that espoused by U.S. commanders and Iraqi leaders. We hope that Mr. Obama will embrace the prudent conditionality that those commanders support and at which Mr. Obama so far has only hinted. But Tuesday is not the day for detailed policy advice. Suffice it instead to be grateful that the president-elect will inherit a war that has gone from the brink of disaster to a path toward success—and to give thanks, above all, to the servicemen and women and their family members who have sacrificed incalculably to make that turnaround possible.

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The good ship lollipop

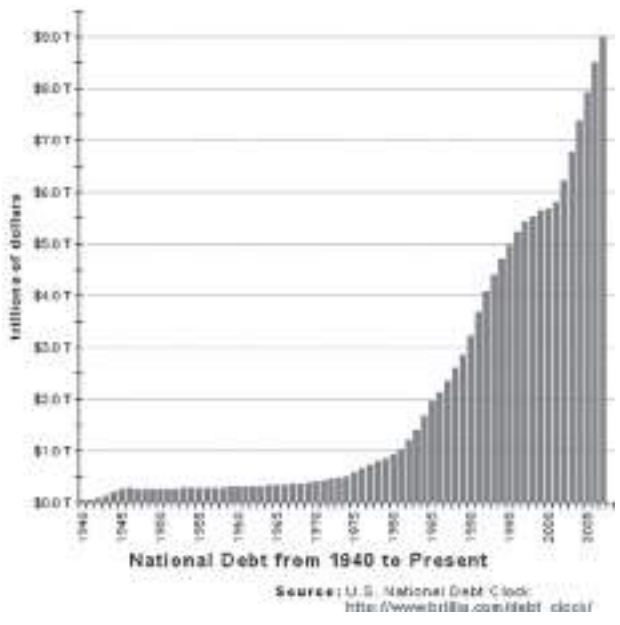
By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

As an Air Force navigator, I was trained to evaluate current circumstances and anticipate the future events our aircraft could encounter. One of my final preflight duties was to check the weather to determine if it would have an impact on our sortie. If it looked like a storm would compromise our mission, I would plot an alternative route to keep us out of harms way and ensure our objective was accomplished. I can tell you from experience, that flying through a storm while at the mercy of Mother Nature is not something you want to experience.

That's why it was difficult for me to watch the movie, *The Perfect Storm*, because it was obvious that the main character and his crew were heading into trouble before he even left the dock. Greed, machismo, stupidity—or whatever one wants to call it—took hold and was the main reason the ship sank.

So here we are, floating in a metaphorical dinghy waiting for the good ship lollipop (U.S.) to toss us some lifesavers so we can make it back into the harbor of blissful content. "Don't rock the boat" has been the mantra of our local leaders, who are seemingly oblivious to the raging storm that's been pelting us. Not only is the CNMI in a "perfect storm," but the U.S. is also experiencing a financial typhoon of its own. Greed was the fuel that drove us onto a reckless course, but ignorance is what will allow us to "stay the course" toward imminent disaster.



Quick fixes are not going to repair the damages that have been many years in the making. From all indications, it looks like this holiday season will be tough for many businesses because consumer confidence is at its lowest right now. With a worldwide recession in progress and the U.S. working vigorously to stimulate the economy, banks are still reluctant to give loans and consumers are tightfisted with their money.

Even if the economic recovery scheme foisted by the Fed and Treasury Secretary provides temporary relieve, it is only a Band-Aid that masks the cancerous growth that's metastasizing throughout the U.S. We are reaching—if we haven't already crossed the threshold—a point where it will be impossible to pay off the U.S. national debt. This has been a "storm" that's been brewing for over two decades and largely ignored by politicians, aside from Ross Perot who ran for president in 1992 on the platform to reduce the national debt when it was *only* about $3.5 *trillion*.

You can see from the chart that the debt remained fairly stable after World War II until the 1970s when it started a gradual increase. In the mid-80s, it started a sharper up swing with Reagan's military "star wars" program designed to bankrupt the Soviet Union as they tried to match the US missile defense system.

This tsunami-size economic debt wave was continued with Bush Senior, and then something interesting happened when Clinton jumped into the mix. The debt still grew, but it appeared to lose its steam. Was Clinton an economic godsend, as some Democrats would have you believe? No. One of the ways he slowed down the debt was to siphon-off all $2.9 trillion surpluses incoming to trust funds and replacing it with IOUs. This included spending every penny remaining in the Social Security trust fund on non-pension items. This would be as silly as the CNMI government raiding the retirement fund to pay off their $200 million debt, and declaring a financial victory. Sure it slowed things down for a while, but it put retires at greater risk.

"W" Bush soon picked up the ball, and after 9-11 he never looked back when it came to deficit spending. It took almost two years to go from $8 to $9 trillion dollars. In late September of this year I looked at the debt at www.brillig.com/debt_us and it stood at $9.7 trillion. About six weeks later it has jumped to over $10.5 trillion, and the debt curve has now achieved vertical acceleration. For a fighter jet, that's terrific; for debt, that's horrific.

Now we have a newly elected President. Even though neither candidate gave much attention to the economy until it slapped them in the face, none has addressed the growing debt situation. Only Senator Ron Paul, that crazy kook from Texas who didn't know what he was talking about (as the mainstream media tried to portray him to the public during the Republican primaries), kept warning us about our dire economic circumstances.

Let's pray that the new President will have the ability and resolve to do what it takes to keep the good ship lollipop from capsizing during this perfect storm. As for me, I'm going to tune into what Senator Paul has to say about the situation, since he is the only Washington "insider" that's consistently offered reliable advice.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Change has come to America'

By BARACK H. OBAMA
PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of Democrat Barack Obama's speech in Chicago after winning the presidential election, as transcribed by CQ Transcriptions and provided by The Associated Press.

OBAMA: Hello, Chicago.

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and churches in numbers this nation has never seen, by people who waited three hours and four hours, many for the first time in their lives, because they believed that this time must be different, that their voices could be that difference.

It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled. Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states.

We are, and always will be, the United States of America.

It's the answer that led those who've been told for so long by so many to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about what we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day.

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment change has come to America.

A little bit earlier this evening, I received an extraordinarily gracious call from Senator McCain.

Senator McCain fought long and hard in this campaign. And he's fought even longer and harder for the country that he loves. He has endured sacrifices for America that most of us cannot begin to imagine. We are better off for the service rendered by this brave and selfless leader.

I congratulate him; I congratulate Governor Palin for all that they've achieved. And I look forward to working with them to renew this nation's promise in the months ahead.

I want to thank my partner in this journey, a man who campaigned from his heart, and spoke for the men and women he grew up with on the streets of Scranton ... and rode with on the train home to Delaware, the vice president-elect of the United States, Joe Biden.

And I would not be standing here tonight without the unyielding support of my best friend for the last 16 years ... the rock of our family, the love of my life, the nation's next first lady...Michelle Obama.

Sasha and Malia...I love you both more than you can imagine. And you have earned the new puppy that's coming with us ...to the new White House.

And while she's no longer with us, I know my grandmother's watching, along with the family that made me who I am. I miss them tonight. I know that my debt to them is beyond measure.

To my sister Maya, my sister Alma, all my other brothers and sisters, thank you so much for all the support that you've given me. I am grateful to them.

And to my campaign manager, David Plouffe ... the unsung hero of this campaign, who built the best—the best political campaign, I think, in the history of the United States of America.

To my chief strategist David Axelrod ... who's been a partner with me every step of the way.

To the best campaign team ever assembled in the history of politics ... you made this happen, and I am forever grateful for what you've sacrificed to get it done.

But above all, I will never forget who this victory truly belongs to. It belongs to you. It belongs to you.

I was never the likeliest candidate for this office. We didn't start with much money or many endorsements. Our campaign was not hatched in the halls of Washington. It began in the backyards of Des Moines and the living rooms of Concord and the front porches of Charleston. It was built by working men and women who dug into what little savings they had to give $5 and $10 and $20 to the cause.

It grew strength from the young people who rejected the myth of their generation's apathy...who left their homes and their families for jobs that offered little pay and less sleep.

It drew strength from the not-so-young people who braved the bitter cold and scorching heat to knock on doors of perfect strangers, and from the millions of Americans who volunteered and organized and proved that more than two centuries later a government of the people, by the people, and for the people has not perished from the Earth.

This is your victory.

And I know you didn't do this just to win an election. And I know you didn't do it for me.

You did it because you understand the enormity of the task that lies ahead. For even as we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime—two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century.

Even as we stand here tonight, we know there are brave Americans waking up in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan to risk their lives for us.

There are mothers and fathers who will lie awake after the children fall asleep and wonder how they'll make the mortgage or pay their doctors' bills or save enough for their child's college education.

There's new energy to harness, new jobs to be created, new schools to build, and threats to meet, alliances to repair.

The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term. But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there.

I promise you, we as a people will get there.

AUDIENCE: Yes we can! Yes we can! Yes we can!

OBAMA: There will be setbacks and false starts. There are many

See CHANGE on Page 13

True grace in the face of defeat

By JOHN MCCAIN

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of Republican John McCain's concession speech Tuesday in Phoenix, as transcribed by CQ Transcriptions and provided by The Associated Press.

MCCAIN: Thank you. Thank you, my friends. Thank you for coming here on this beautiful Arizona evening.

My friends, we have—we have come to the end of a long journey. The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly.

A little while ago, I had the honor of calling Senator Barack Obama to congratulate him.

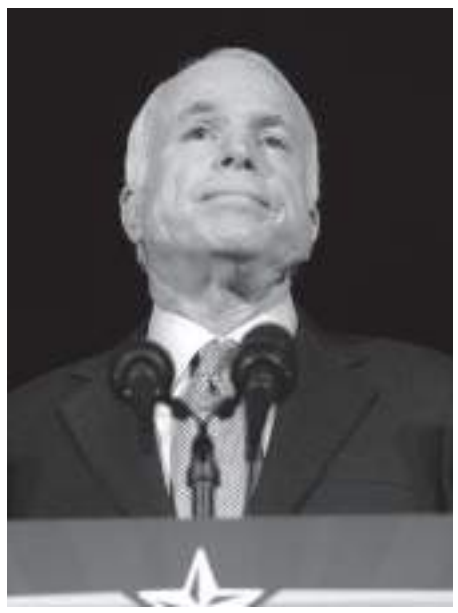
(BOOING)

Please.

To congratulate him on being elected the next president of the country that we both love.

In a contest as long and difficult as this campaign has been, his success alone commands my respect for his ability and perseverance. But that he managed to do so by inspiring the hopes of so many millions of Americans who had once wrongly believed that they had little at stake or little influence in the election of an American president is something I deeply admire and commend him for achieving.

This is an historic election, and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans and for the special pride that must be theirs tonight.



I've always believed that America offers opportunities to all who have the industry and will to seize it. Senator Obama believes that, too.

But we both recognize that, though we have come a long way from the old injustices that once stained our nation's reputation and denied some Americans the full blessings of American citizenship, the memory of them still had the power to wound.

A century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt's invitation of Booker T. Washington to dine at the White House was taken as an outrage in many quarters.

America today is a world away from the cruel and frightful bigotry of that time. There is no better evidence of this than the election of an African-American to the presidency of the United States.

Let there be no reason now...Let there be no reason now for any American to fail to cherish their citizenship in this, the greatest nation on Earth.

Senator Obama has achieved a great thing for himself and for his country. I applaud him for it, and offer him my sincere sympathy that his beloved grandmother did not live to see this day. Though our faith assures us she is at rest in the presence of her creator and so very proud of the good man she helped raise.

Senator Obama and I have had and argued our differences, and he has prevailed. No doubt many of those differences remain.

These are difficult times for our country. And I pledge to him tonight to do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges we face.

I urge all Americans ... I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just congratulating him, but offering our next president our good will and earnest effort to find ways to come together to find the necessary compromises to bridge our differences and help restore our prosperity, defend our security in a dangerous world, and leave our children and grandchildren a stronger, better country than we inherited.

Whatever our differences, we are fellow Americans. And please believe me when I say no association has ever meant more to me than that.

It is natural. It's natural, tonight, to feel some disappointment. But tomorrow, we must move beyond it and work together to get our country moving again.

We fought—we fought as hard as we could. And though we feel short, the failure is mine, not yours.

AUDIENCE: No!

MCCAIN: I am so...

AUDIENCE: (CHANTING)

MCCAIN: I am so deeply grateful to all of you for the great honor of your support and for all you have done for me. I wish the outcome had been different, my friends.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We do, too (OFF-MIKE)

MCCAIN: The road was a difficult one from the outset, but your support and friendship never wavered. I cannot adequately express how deeply indebted I am to you.

I'm especially grateful to my wife, Cindy, my children, my dear mother...my dear mother and all my family, and to the many old and dear friends who have stood by my side through the many ups and downs of this long campaign.

I have always been a fortunate man, and never more so for the love and encouragement you have given me.

You know, campaigns are often harder on a candidate's family than on the candidate, and that's been true in this campaign.

All I can offer in compensation is my love and gratitude and the promise of more peaceful years ahead.

I am also—I am also, of course, very thankful to Governor Sarah Palin, one of the best campaigners I've ever seen...one of the best campaigners I have ever seen, and an impressive new voice in our party for reform and the principles that have always been our greatest strength...her husband Todd and their five beautiful children...for their tireless dedication to our cause, and the courage and grace they showed in the rough and tumble of a presidential campaign.

We can all look forward with great interest to her future service to Alaska, the Republican Party and our country.

To all my campaign comrades, from Rick Davis and Steve Schmidt and Mark Salter, to every last volunteer who fought so hard and valiantly, month after month, in what at times seemed to be the most challenged campaign in modern times, thank you so much. A lost election will never mean more to me than the privilege of your faith and friendship.

I don't know—I don't know what more we could have done to try to win this election. I'll leave that to others to determine. Every candidate makes mistakes, and I'm sure I made my share of them. But I won't spend a moment of the future regretting what might have been.

This campaign was and will remain the great honor of my life, and my heart is filled with nothing but gratitude for the experience

See TRUE on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

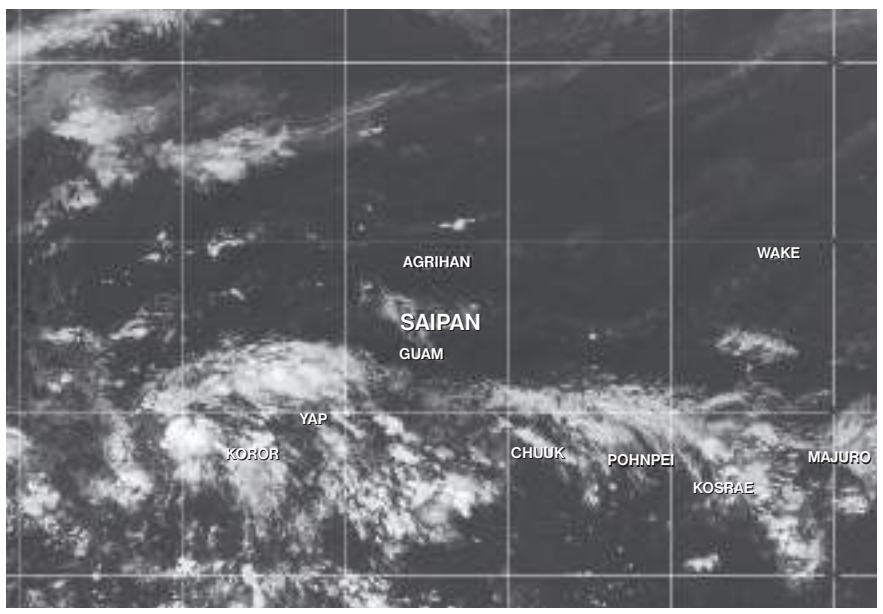
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼57
Beijing	Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Hong Kong	Showers	▲84	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼71
London	Showers	▲52	▼45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼68
New York	Rain	▲60	▼54
Osaka	Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Paris	Showers	▲51	▼42
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼54
Rome	Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Salem	Rain	▲59	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲63	▼45
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear-line is triggering scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from 24N130E to beyond 25N136E. Upper-level divergence and an associated surface trough that extends from 11N132E to 4N133E are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Palau and Yap or within an area bounded by a line from 12N130E to 14N140E to 5N149E to 2N143E to 6N130E back to 12N130E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from north of both Chuuk and Pohnpei to southeast of Kosrae or within 100 miles of a line from 11N149E to 9N161E to 1N169E. A surface trough across the Marshall Islands along with upper-level divergence are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 4N and 10N from 170E to 180E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:07AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:52PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:53PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:15AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:16AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:16AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:17AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:37PM	
Friday	1:16PM	12:22AM
Saturday	1:53PM	1:13AM
Sunday	2:31PM	2:04AM
Monday	3:10PM	2:56AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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OPINION

CHANGE

From Page 11

who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president. And we know the government can't solve every problem.

But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And, above all, I will ask you to join in the work of remaking this nation, the only way it's been done in America for 221 years—block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand.

What began 21 months ago in the depths of winter cannot end on this autumn night.

This victory alone is not the change we seek. It is only the chance for us to make that change. And that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were.

It can't happen without you, without a new spirit of service, a new spirit of sacrifice.

So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility, where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves but each other.

Let us remember that, if this financial crisis taught us anything, it's that we cannot have a thriving Wall Street while Main Street suffers.

In this country, we rise or fall as one nation, as one people. Let's resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long.

Let's remember that it was a man from this state who first carried the banner of the Republican Party to the White House, a party founded on the values of self-reliance and individual liberty and national unity.

Those are values that we all share. And while the Democratic Party has won a great victory tonight, we do so with a measure of humility and determination to heal the divides that have held back our progress.

As Lincoln said to a nation far more divided than ours, we are not enemies but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

And to those Americans whose support I have yet to earn, I may not have won your vote tonight, but I hear your voices. I need your help. And I will be your president, too.

And to all those watching tonight from beyond our shores, from parliaments and palaces, to those who are huddled around radios in the forgotten corners of the world, our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand.

To those—to those who would tear the world down: We will defeat you. To those who seek peace and security: We support you. And to all those who have wondered if America's beacon still burns as bright: Tonight we proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity and unyielding hope.

That's the true genius of America: that America can change. Our union can be perfected. What we've already achieved gives us hope for what we can and must achieve tomorrow.

This election had many firsts and many stories that will be told for generations. But one that's on my mind tonight's about a woman who cast her ballot in Atlanta. She's a lot like the millions of others who stood in line to make their voice heard in this election except for one thing: Ann Nixon Cooper is 106 years old.

She was born just a generation past slavery; a time when there were no cars on the road or planes in the sky; when someone like her couldn't vote for two reasons—because she was a woman and because of the color of her skin.

And tonight, I think about all that she's seen throughout her century in America—the heartache and the hope; the struggle and the progress; the times we were told that we can't, and the people who pressed on with that American creed: Yes we can.

At a time when women's voices were silenced and their hopes dismissed, she lived to see them stand up and speak out and reach for the ballot. Yes we can.

When there was despair in the dust bowl and depression across the land, she saw a nation conquer fear itself with a New Deal, new jobs, a new sense of common purpose. Yes we can.

AUDIENCE: Yes we can.

OBAMA: When the bombs fell on our harbor and tyranny threatened the world, she was there to witness a generation rise to greatness and a democracy was saved. Yes we can.

AUDIENCE: Yes we can.

OBAMA: She was there for the buses in Montgomery, the hoses in Birmingham, a bridge in Selma, and a preacher from Atlanta who told a people that We Shall Overcome. Yes we can.

AUDIENCE: Yes we can.

OBAMA: A man touched down on the moon, a wall came down in Berlin, a world was connected by our own science and imagination.

And this year, in this election, she touched her finger to a screen, and cast her vote, because after 106 years in America, through the best of times and the darkest of hours, she knows how America can change.

Yes we can.

AUDIENCE: Yes we can.

OBAMA: America, we have come so far. We have seen so much. But there is so much more to do. So tonight, let us ask ourselves—if our children should live to see the next century; if my daughters should be so lucky to live as long as Ann Nixon Cooper, what change will they see? What progress will we have made?

This is our chance to answer that call. This is our moment.

This is our time, to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth, that, out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope. And where we are met with cynicism and doubts and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes, we can.

Thank you. God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America.

TRUE

From Page 11

and to the American people for giving me a fair hearing before deciding that Senator Obama and my old friend Senator Joe Biden should have the honor of leading us for the next four years.

(BOOING)

Please. Please.

I would not—I would not be an American worthy of the name should I regret a fate that has allowed me the extraordinary privilege of serving this country for a half a century.

Today, I was a candidate for the highest office in the country I love so much. And tonight, I remain her servant. That is blessing enough for anyone, and I thank the people of Arizona for it.

AUDIENCE: USA. USA. USA. USA.

MCCAIN: Tonight—tonight, more than any night, I hold in my heart nothing but love for this country and for all its citizens, whether they supported me or Senator Obama—whether they supported me or Senator Obama.

I wish Godspeed to the man who was my former opponent and will be my president. And I call on all Americans, as I have often in this campaign, to not despair of our present difficulties, but to believe, always, in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here.

Americans never quit. We never surrender.

We never hide from history. We make history.

Thank you, and God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you all very much.

Business

Obama to inherit feeble economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—To the victor goes the mess. Barack Obama's presidential election victory comes with an albatross of a prize—an economy beset by a stubborn housing slump and the worst financial crisis in 70 years.

Obama

Consumers and businesses are sharply reducing their spending and the government is awash in red ink.

"He will inherit an economy that is in recession and ... is likely to get worse before it gets better," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist for PNC Financial Services.

The current administration on Wednesday will detail its plans to borrow a record $550 billion in the final three months of the year as a down payment for the various financial rescue packages put into effect in response to the global crisis.

A Treasury Department official on Monday projected the government would need to borrow an additional $368 billion in the first quarter of 2009. Treasury is expected to bring back its three-year notes to help cover the increased borrowing needs.

Still, investors seemed to draw hope Tuesday from the selection of a new presidential administration, while shrugging off the latest in a series of grim economic reports. The Dow Jones industrial average surged more than 300 points. The Dow and the other major stock indexes all finished with gains of more than 3 percent.

As election results were being announced in the U.S., Asian stocks rallied early Wednesday. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average climbed 2.9 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index surged 6.1 percent. South Korea's Kospi jumped 5.5 percent.

Futures trading also initially indicated a slightly firmer opening for Wall Street stocks on Wednesday. Dow futures rose 15, or 0.2 percent, to 9,602 shortly after news emerged of Obama's election win.

Analysts said investors appeared to be looking forward to the end of political uncertainty and hoping the new U.S. president will move to boost the economy, which got another bit of dismal news Tuesday.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday factory orders dropped 2.5 percent in September from August, more than three times as much as analysts had expected. Excluding autos and aircraft, orders fell 3.7 percent, the steepest drop since 1992, when the department began tracking sector-specific changes.

The weakness was led by a heavy drop in nondurable goods orders, which fell 5.5 percent. That included a 17 percent drop in the value of petroleum and coal products, reflecting the decline in oil and gas prices in September.

Analysts said the report wasn't as bad as it looked, because much of the decline was driven by the drop in the value of oil and gas orders.

But orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft, considered a good indication of business investment plans, fell 1.5 percent. That follows a 2.3 percent drop in August and indicated companies are cutting back on their investments.

"Corporate America is buying into the recession story, and they are paring their investment spending accordingly," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics.

Asian stock markets rise as US elects Obama

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets rose Wednesday, tracking solid overnight gains on Wall Street, as uncertainty about the next leader of the world's largest economy was lifted with Democrat Barack Obama's elevation to the U.S. presidency.

Many investors were hopeful that the new president would focus renewed energy on tackling deteriorating economic conditions in America—a vital export market for Asian goods—that have dragged on growth around the world.

The relief that came with the end of the U.S. election was an added boost to sentiment, which has improved on the belief that, as the credit crunch eases, world equities markets could see a year-end rally after October's brutal sell-off.

Obama's win "is an excuse for the market to rally. There's less political uncertainty and that gives investors more confidence in the short term," said Frank Gong, a Hong Kong-based managing director for JP Morgan Securities. "But technically it's more about the credit crisis settling down and the market's fear coming down."

Some analysts said the next administration would be hard pressed to deliver a quick fix to the many U.S. economic woes.

AP

A man makes his way past an electric market board in Tokyo, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008.

"Changing the president is not going to be enough to save the American economy," said Kazuo Mizuno, chief economist at Mitsubishi UFJ Securities Co. in Tokyo.

He said the U.S. is likely to need financing from Japan, China, the Middle East and other countries if it hopes to fund public bailouts for its financial system and deliver on tax breaks and other measures needed for recovery.

Nation

Analysis: Next up after Obama win, governing

By LIZ SIDOTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AMERICA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Now the hard part.

Barack Obama essentially came out of nowhere, beat the Democratic establishment, conquered doubts about his experience and overcame questions about his race to be elected the first black president after a grueling campaign that lasted nearly two years.

As president-elect, he faces three immediate challenges: confronting the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression, determining the next steps in two lingering wars, and leading his Democrats, including liberals expecting that the change he promises will come instantly.

It won't.

On the heels of a campaign in which cash wasn't a concern, Obama must tackle all of those tasks with no room in the budget as the nation heads for a painful, perhaps long-lasting, recession.

Even as he celebrated his victory before a sea of supporters in Chicago, Obama acknowledged "the enormity of the task that lies ahead," and offered a sobering assessment.

"We know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime—two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century," Obama said. "There's new energy to harness, new jobs to be created, new schools to build, and threats to meet, alliances to repair."

He warned: "The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term."

No new president has faced so much since Franklin Delano Roosevelt—and even he didn't have two wars on his plate.

Roosevelt had four months to come up with programs to address the Great Depression before he took office on March 4, 1933.

Obama gets just 2 1/2 to put together his government; inauguration is Jan. 20.

He will chart the country's course against this dreary backdrop: Unemployment is at 6.1 percent and predicted to rise as high as 7.5 percent next year; pessimistic consumers have curtailed borrowing and spending; home foreclosures are rampant; Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security face huge financial problems; and, 152,000 U.S. troops are in Iraq more than five years after the initial invasion, while 32,000 are in Afghanistan in the sixth year of the war against terrorism.

With Democrats expanding their majorities in both the House and Senate, Obama will have to figure out how to lead a country that's more conservative than liberal while trying to satisfy the left wing of his party. He will face demands for a quick pullout from Iraq. He's promised withdrawal, but carefully.

Perhaps addressing his party faithful, Obama said: "There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president. And we know the government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face."

From the outset, how Obama acts to deal with these conditions will set the tone for his presidency.

Voters got an early glimpse of his style last month when Wall Street collapsed, stocks fluctuated and the government intervened. He struck a cautious stance and deferred to lawmakers dealing directly with the problems. He was deliberative and careful in his response—perhaps just the approach voters were seeking after eight years of what critics call President Bush's cowboy approach.

Yet, Obama may be blamed for recession woes despite the fact that he inherited the mess from Bush. The troubles are on Obama's watch now even if there's little he can do about them. The president in power always suffers when the economy tanks. Just ask the first President Bush in 1992.

Indeed, coming in with a big victory doesn't guarantee success.

Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson won with 61 percent of the vote in 1964. He won his Great Society programs in his first two years but his administration essentially collapsed in the final two with the escalation of the Vietnam War.

In choosing Obama as the 44th president, the nation took a historic leap beyond its legacy of slavery and toward healing racial tensions just four decades after the tumultuous Civil Rights movement.

Politically, Obama's election amounted to a wholesale rejection of the status quo after eight years of Bush and Republican rule.

Voters were willing to take a chance on a relative newcomer to the national stage. Obama is a 47-year-old black man from Chicago with a liberal voting record who is in just his first Senate term and has offered few specifics on how he would govern.

Culturally, Obama's victory was so much more for a nation on the verge of becoming a true melting pot; government estimates say white people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2042.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, Obama's call for change created a movement at a time of great upheaval in the country. And, that proved to be a large enough force to overcome lingering prejudices.

To be sure, the economy proved a powerful motivator.

More than half of voters named it their top issue. And, nearly all voters said the economy was in bad shape and said they were worried about the economy's direction. Obama had the advantage among these voters.

Race didn't appear to be much of a hurdle.

Obama won nearly half of the white vote while nearly all blacks and two in three Hispanics supported him.

AP

President-elect Barack Obama and his wife Michelle and their daughters Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7,arrive on stage during his election night party at Grant Park in Chicago, Tuesday night, Nov. 4, 2008.

Four years after his national debut, Barack Obama takes his place—in the White House

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP NATIONAL WRITER

PHOENIX (AP)—"My presence on this stage is pretty unlikely," Barack Obama began.

"I stand here knowing that my story is part of the larger American story ... and that, in no other country on earth, is my story even possible."

It was the speech that launched him. Obama was an Illinois assembly member seeking his first term in the U.S. Senate, given a shot at the national stage when John Kerry asked him to deliver the keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

He had those in the crowd on their feet, cheering wildly, even as many of them—even as many of us—wondered: Who is this guy?

A "skinny kid with a funny name who believes that America has a place for him, too," he told us then.

He talked about hope and brighter days and standing at a crossroads in our nation's history—themes that would become the bedrock of his own unprecedented run for the White House. And he touched on the many chapters of his life, as familiar to us now as his rallying cry for change.

There was the black father, also named Barack, who grew up herding goats in Kenya. He traveled on scholarship to attend the University of Hawaii and there, in a Russian language class, met 18-year-old Stanley Ann Dunham, the white daughter of Kansas-bred parents, christened after the father who worked on oil rigs and farms and served in World War II.

Barack (which means "blessed" in Arabic) was born on Aug. 4, 1961. But his parents' marriage didn't last, and his father would be absent for all but a month of the boy's life. His mother, a free-spirited anthropologist passionate about helping women, raised him. Of her, Obama once wrote: "What is best in me I owe to her."

We would learn of the international upbringing, four years spent living in Indonesia after his mother remarried and brought her son to a Third World country, at once exotic and enlightening. Young Barack had a pet monkey, but he also saw poverty and disease, and his eyes were opened to a new world view.

That world view didn't ease Obama's own struggle with his biracial identity. He was among the few black students at his Honolulu high school, where he was known as "Barry" and met with others for a weekly "ethnic corner" discussion. He lived then with his maternal grandparents, including Madelyn Dunham, the grandmother he called "Toot."

In a remarkable dissertation on race earlier this year, a speech intended to rebuke the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's remarks regarding the nation's racial divide, Obama referred to his "white grandmother" as the woman who helped raise him, sacrificed for him and loved him, but who once confessed her fear of black men who passed her on the street and "who on more than one occasion has uttered racial or ethnic stereotypes that made me cringe."

Dunham died Sunday at age 86. His father died in a car crash in 1982, his mother of ovarian cancer in 1995. His half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, lives in Honolulu and teaches history.

The compelling life story that helped propel Obama from community organizer to celebrity politician emerged initially in 1990, after he was elected the first black president of the prestigious Harvard Law Review. He was 28, a second-year student with a political science degree from Columbia University who had spent several years working the streets of Chicago mobilizing South Side residents to fight for themselves after steel mill closings left them struggling.

His election made headlines, even landing him his first book deal and, in a 1990 interview with The Associated Press, he professed a desire to stay "engaged in what I think are the core issues of the society." He mentioned poverty and race, saying, "I really hope to be part of a transformation of this country."

After Harvard, Obama rejected high-powered job offers, joining a small civil rights firm back in Chicago. He ran a voter registration drive and lectured on constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School.

He also married Michelle Robinson, a fellow Harvard Law School grad who served as his adviser during a summer internship at a Chicago law firm. The couple have two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7.

The jump into politics came in 1996, when Obama won an Illinois Senate seat representing Hyde Park, the South Side neighborhood that encompasses the prestigious university as well as pockets of deep inner-city poverty.

Democrats retake House, make broad gains

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

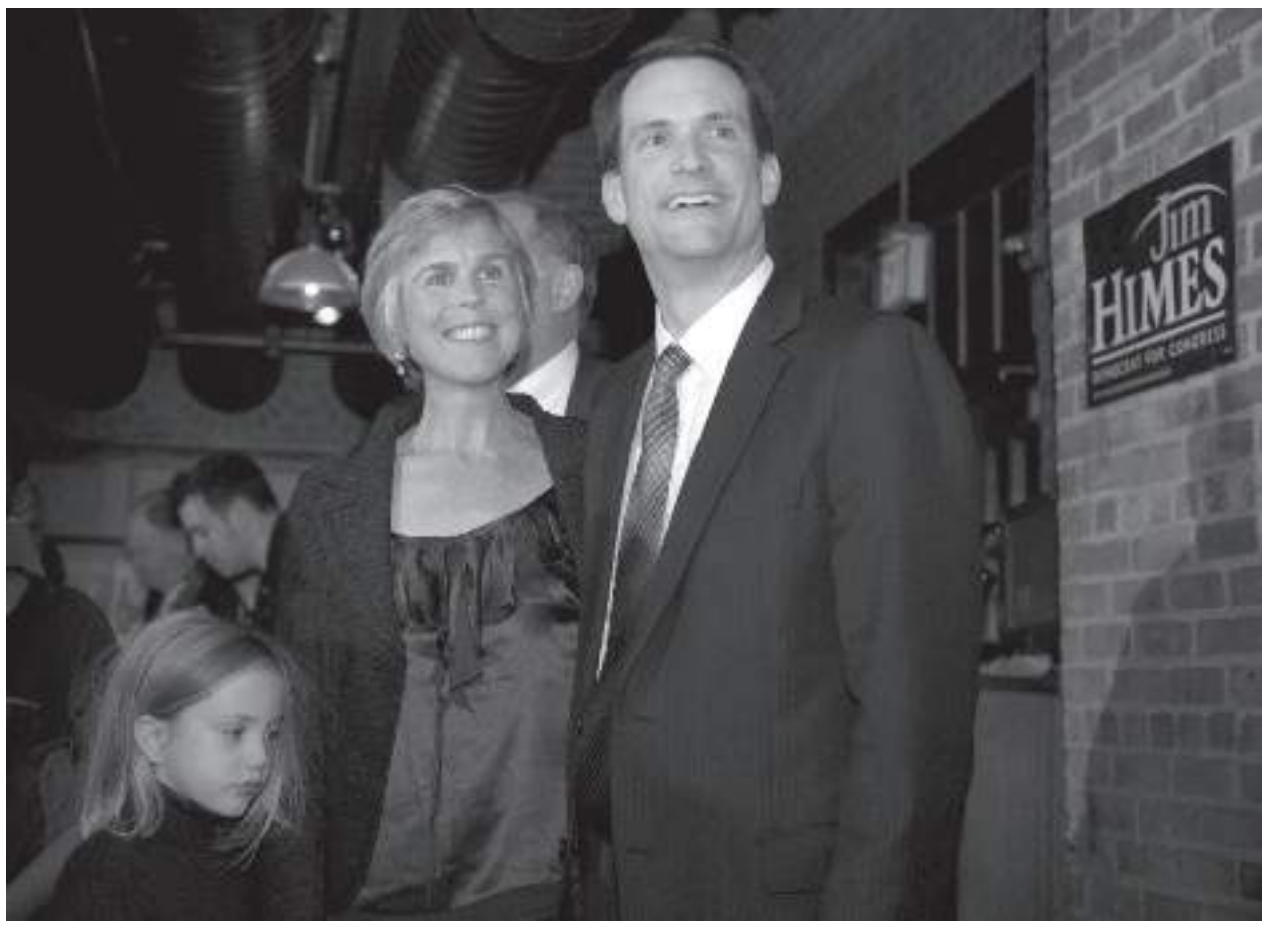
AMERISA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats retained control of the House and pushed for historic gains in their majority Tuesday by solidifying their dominance in the Northeast and making inroads in the South and West.

"It's the night we have been waiting for," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Ousting 22-year veteran Rep. Chris Shays in Connecticut gave Democrats every House seat from New England. Their victory in an open seat on New York's Staten Island gave them control of all of New York City's delegation in Washington for the first time in 35 years.

Democrats also rode the coattails of a decisive victory by Barack Obama in New Mexico to win one House seat they haven't controlled in four decades and another the GOP had held for 28 years. Both were left up-for-grabs by GOP retirements.



AP
Jim Himes, Democratic candidate for U.S. Rep for the 4th district of Conn. reacts and celebrates with his wife Mary and their daughter Emma, 8, after U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn. conceded on Tuesday Nov. 4, 2008 in Norwalk, Conn.

Unseating GOP incumbents

Democrats unseated a half-dozen Republican incumbents and captured eight open GOP seats, capitalizing on the unusually high 29 Republican departures. Republicans knocked off three Democratic incumbents.

With more than 380 of the 435 House races decided, Democrats held leads for a dozen other Republican-held seats. Republicans were leading in fewer than a handful of seats held by Democrats.

For the first time in more than 75 years, Democrats were headed for big House gains in back-to-back elections. The picked up 30 seats in 2006.

"This will be a wave upon a wave," Pelosi said.

In the first sign of what promises to be a bitter round of GOP recriminations, Rep. Adam Putnam of Florida, the No. 3 Republican, told colleagues in a letter released near midnight that he was "reluctantly" stepping down from his post.

In the northeast, GOP Reps. John R. "Randy" Kuhl of New York and Phil English of Pennsylvania were defeated. Democrat Eric Massa unseated Kuhl in New York's southern tier, and Kathy Dahlkemper, a 50-year-old mother of five, toppled English in a swing district of rural communities and old industrial steel towns in Pennsylvania's northwest corner.

In Connecticut, Democrat Jim Himes, a Greenwich businessman, defeated Shays despite the Republican's highly publicized late criticism of McCain's presidential campaign.

In upstate New York, former congressional staffer Dan Maffei won election to succeed retiring GOP Rep. Jim Walsh, becoming first Democrat in nearly 30 years to represent the district around Syracuse. Downstate, Democratic city councilman Mike McMahon won the race on Staten Island to succeed GOP Rep. Vito Fossella, R-N.Y., who was forced to resign amid drunk driving charges and revelations that he fathered a child from an extramarital affair.

New Jersey Democratic state Sen. John Adler won election to succeed retiring Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., in the state's Pine Barrens region.

In the South, too, Democrats made inroads. High school civics teacher Larry Kissell won election in North Carolina, defeating Republican Rep. Robin Hayes. Democrat Gerald Connolly, a former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, was elected to succeed retiring GOP Rep. Thomas M. Davis III in a northern Virginia district that's trending more Democratic because of an influx of new voters. And in a far more conservative district further south, Rep. Virgil H. Goode Jr.,R-Va., was in a too-cloe-to-call race for survival against Democrat Tom Perriello.

In Florida, GOP Rep. Tom Feeney—under fire for ties to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff—was the first incumbent to fall, losing to former state Rep. Suzanne Kosmas. To the east, Rep. Ric Keller, R-Fla., lost to Democratic attorney Alan Grayson, in an increasingly Hispanic district in Orlando.

Democrats also made inroads in the West, where they captured the two New Mexico seats and one left open by retiring GOP Rep. Rick Renzi, who's awaiting trial on corruption charges.

In Illinois, Democrat Debbie Halvorson, the speaker of the state Senate, won election to a seat held by retiring GOP Rep. Jerry Weller in the swing exurbs and rural areas south of Chicago.

Rare Republican gains

The news wasn't all good for Democrats. Republican attorney Tom Rooney defeated first-term Democratic Rep. Tim Mahoney of Florida, who had admitted to two extramarital affairs just weeks before Election Day.

Republican Bill Cassidy dealt a bruising defeat to Rep. Don Cazayoux, D-La., elected in a special election six months ago.

And in Texas, Republican Pete Olson, a former chief of staff to Sen. John Cornyn, beat Democratic Rep. Nick Lampson.

But other freshman Democrats once considered vulnerable cruised to easy re-election.

First-term Democratic Reps. John Yarmuth of Kentucky, Indiana's Joe Donnelly and Brad Ellsworth, and New Hampshire's Rep. Carol Shea-Porter won easy re-election. They were part of a crop of freshman Democrats in conservative-leaning districts who began compiling campaign war chests and moderate voting records almost from the moment they were elected two years ago, leaving only a few of them endangered on Tuesday.

Former five-term Republican Rep. Anne Northup was unable to mount a comeback in Louisville, Ky., against Yarmuth despite GOP presidential nominee John McCain's decisive victory in the state.

In 2006, Democrats won 30 seats and control of Congress in a surge powered by voter anger over the Iraq war.

This year the sour economy and public antipathy for President Bush posed the biggest challenges for Republican candidates. The Democrats were aided by a wave of GOP retirements and huge financial and organizational advantages over Republicans.

That's despite voter hostility toward the Democratic-controlled Congress. Just one in five voters Tuesday approved of the job Congress was doing, about as poorly as Bush fared, according to AP exit polling.

Economy is key issue

Six in 10 voters cited the economy as the most important issue facing the nation. About half said the economy is poor and nearly all the rest said it's not good. The results were based on a preliminary partial sample of nearly 10,000 voters in Election Day polls and in telephone interviews over the past week for early voters.

Democrats now control the House by a 235-199 margin, with one vacancy.

GOP lawmakers at risk included Alaska's Rep. Don Young, Colorado's Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, and Michigan's Reps. Tim Walberg and Joe Knollenberg. Rep. Lee Terry of Nebraska, once considered a safe bet for re-election, was also in major trouble.

Rep. John P. Murtha, D-Pa., who chairs a subcommittee with the most influence on the Pentagon's spending, who had a scare after calling his district south of Pittsburgh "racist," won easy re-election.

Democratic candidates raised $436 million, compared with Republicans' $328 million, according to federal data compiled by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee poured $76 million into competitive races and the National Republican Congressional Committee spent $24 million.

Because hurricanes delayed October primaries, two Louisiana seats—one that belonged to retiring Republican Rep. Jim McCrery and another held by indicted Democratic Rep. William Jefferson—won't be decided until December. Those districts held primaries Tuesday.

Democrats expand control of Senate by five seats

By TOM RAUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats fattened their majority control of the Senate on Tuesday, ousting Republican Sens. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina and John Sununu of New Hampshire and capturing seats held by retiring GOP senators in Virginia, New Mexico and Colorado.

Piggybacking on the excitement level raised by presidential victor Barack Obama and his voter-registration and get-out-the-vote drives, Democrats increased their effective majority to at least 56 seats in the 100-member Senate.

They did not turn over a single seat to Republicans. All Democratic incumbents on the ballot prevailed.

But Republicans stopped a complete rout, holding the Kentucky seat of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and a Mississippi seat once held by Trent Lott—two top Democratic targets.

North Carolina state Sen. Kay Hagan, little known politically before her run, defeated Dole—a former Cabinet member in two Republican administrations and 2000 presidential hopeful. Dole had tried to tie Hagan, a former Presbyterian Sunday school teacher, to atheists in an ad that appeared to backfire.

In New Hampshire, former Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen defeated Sununu in a rematch of their 2002 contest.

In pair of western races, Reps. Tom and Mark Udall took over Senate seats held by retiring Republicans. Tom Udall, the son of former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, defeated Republican Rep. Steve Pearce to succeed Pete Domenici in New Mexico. Tom's cousin Mark, the son of the late Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona, won the Colorado seat held by Republican Wayne Allard, who did not seek re-election.

Former Democratic Gov. Mark Warner breezed to victory in Virginia to take a Senate seat held for five terms by retiring GOP Sen. John Warner, beating another former governor, Republican Jim Gilmore. The two Warners are not related.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden won another six-year term representing Delaware in the Senate. It became moot when Obama won the presidential election.

Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, the only serious GOP target, won her re-election over Republican state treasurer John Kennedy.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., attributed the Democratic gains to Obama's coattails.

"It's been a really good night," Reid said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Obama ran a terrific campaign, he inspired millions of people."

McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, had been a target of national Democrats after leading successful filibusters against much of their legislative agenda the past two years. He won re-election against two-time Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bruce Lunsford in a contentious race.

"Winston Churchill once said that the most exhilarating feeling in life is to be shot at - and missed," McConnell said late Tuesday. "After the last few months, I think what he really meant to say is that there's nothing more exhausting."

In a tight Mississippi contest, Republican Roger Wicker, defeated former Democratic Gov. Ronnie Musgrove to serve another four years of the term originally won in 2006 by Lott. Wicker was appointed to the post temporarily after Lott stepped down.

Barack Obama's Kenyan relatives cheer win

By TOM MALITI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AMERICA VOTES

KOGELO, Kenya (AP)—Barack Obama's Kenyan relatives erupted in cheers Wednesday, singing "We are going to the White House!" as Obama became the first African-American elected president.

In the western village of Kogelo, where the Democratic candidate's late father was born, police had tightened security to prevent hordes of media and onlookers from entering the rural homestead of Obama's stepgrandmother, Sarah.

But the elderly woman and several other relatives came outside Wednesday to cheer for Obama in a country where the Democrat is seen as a "son of the soil."

Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki declared Thursday a public holiday in honor of Obama's victory.

Across Africa—where Obama is wildly popular—people stayed up all night or woke before dawn Wednesday to watch the U.S. election results roll in. In the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, people chanted "Obama! Obama!" as the results were announced on television.

AP

Kenyan family members of U.S. Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama, including his step-grandmother Sarah Obama, center right red top, celebrate after his victory in the U.S. election was announced, at the family's homestead in Kogelo village, Kenya, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008.

"He's in!" said Rachel Ndimu, 23, a business student who joined hundreds of others at the residence of the U.S. ambassador for an election party that began at 5 a.m. "I think this is awesome, and the whole world is backing him."

Many hope an Obama presidency will help this vast continent, the poorest in the world. Some are looking for more U.S. aid to Africa, others simply bask in the glory of a successful black politician with African roots.

Obama was born in Hawaii, where he spent most of his childhood reared by his mother, a white American from Kansas. He barely knew his late father. But that has not stopped "Obamamania" from sweeping the continent and particularly Kenya, where his picture adorns billboards and minibuses.

Hundreds of chanting people marched through the streets of Kibera shantytown, one of Africa's largest slums, cheering Obama's win.

Samuel Ouma, 36, said the victory alleviated some of the pain suffered in December after Kenya's disastrous presidential election, which unleashed weeks of violence.

"We finally have got the stolen election," he said.

Gibson Gaitho, 14, said he does not believe an Obama presidency will change his life much but said he is inspired by the rise of a man with Kenyan roots. His teachers at Mangu High School in Thika brought the students to watch the results at the ambassador's residence in Nairobi.

"As Kenyans we feel proud," he said. "But we know Obama will be working for the United States."

Obama victory sparks cheers worldwide

TOKYO (AP)—In concert halls and ballrooms, in plazas and at beach parties, people across the globe hailed Barack Obama's election as a stroke for racial equality and voiced hopes his presidency would herald a balanced, less confrontational America.

Throngs crowded before TVs or listened to blaring radios for the latest updates. In Sydney, Australians filled a hotel ballroom; in Rio, Brazilians partied on the beach. In the town of Obama in Japan, dancers cheered in delight when their namesake's victory was declared.

Observers—many in countries where the idea of a minority being elected leader is unthinkable—expressed amazement and satisfaction that the United States could overcome centuries of racial strife an elect an African-American as president.

"It shows that America truly is a diverse, multicultural society where the color of your skin really does not matter," said Jason Ge, an international relations student at Peking University in China.

In an interconnected world where people in its farthest reaches could monitor the presidential race blow-by-blow, many observers echoed Obama's own mantra as they struggled to put into words their sense that his election marked an important turning point.

"I really think this is going to change the world," said Akihiko Mukohama, 34, the lead singer of a band that traveled to Obama, Japan, to perform at a promotional event for the president-elect. He wore an "I Love Obama" T-shirt.

Many acknowledged that—for better or worse—America's economic, military and cultural might made the election globally important.

Australian Phil Keeling was plastered head-to-toe in a red, white and blue outfit with both Obama and McCain buttons as he crowded into a hotel ballroom in downtown Sydney, Australia to watch election results on two giant TV screens.

"There's a chance the image of the U.S. may change dramatically, and it's nice to be part of it," he said. He refused to say which candidate he preferred. Around him, Australians and Americans stood under a cloud of red, white and blue balloons and snacked on American treats like mini hamburgers and hot dogs.

Hopes were also high among many critical of President Bush's policies that an Obama victory would herald a more inclusive, internationally cooperative U.S. approach. Many cited the Iraq war as the type of blunder Obama was unlikely to repeat.

At a party in Rio de Janeiro, where Brazilians and Americans watched the returns, a 33-year-old music producer said an Obama win would show that "Americans have learned something from the bad experiences of the Bush administration.

"Choosing Obama is a great opportunity for Americans to show the world they can change, be humble and learn from their mistakes, which were not small," said Zanna, who uses only one name.

Umang Khosla, a senior marketing manager in Mumbai, India, with a multinational shipping company, said Obama would be widely welcomed after Bush, who he said "was hated the world over."

"With Obama, the world will see the Americans as having more sense, being more receptive to change," Khosla said on his way to work. "If Obama even remotely changes things, perceptions will change."

Obama's victory capped a campaign that many millions around the world had watched with rapt attention.

In Germany, where more than 200,000 people flocked to see Obama this summer as he burnished his foreign policy credentials during a trip to the Middle East and Europe, the election dominated television ticker crawls, newspaper headlines and Web sites.

Obama-mania was evident not only across Europe but also in much of the Islamic world, where Muslims expressed hope that the Democrat would seek compromise rather than confrontation.

The Bush administration alienated Muslims by mistreating prisoners at its detention center for terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and inmates at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison—human rights violations also condemned worldwide.

Nizar al-Kortas, a columnist for Kuwait's Al-Anbaa newspaper, saw an Obama victory as "a historic step to change the image of the arrogant American administration."

Yet McCain had enjoyed a strong current of support in Israel, where he was perceived as tougher on Iran than Obama. Taking a cigarette break on a Jerusalem street corner, bank employee Leah Nizri, 53, favored McCain.

"He's too young," she said of Obama. "I think that especially in a situation of a world recession, where things are so unclear in the world, McCain would be better than Obama."

Not everyone expected Obama to follow through on his promise to change U.S. policies. In Iraq, where the Bush government ignited a war in 2003 that has yet to end, some were skeptical of American intentions in the Middle East.

"I think Obama's victory will do nothing for the Iraqi issue nor for the Palestinian issue," said Muneer Jamal, a Baghdad resident. "I think all the promises Obama made during the campaign will remain mere promises."

Still, many around the world found Obama's international roots—his father was Kenyan, and he lived four years in Indonesia as a child—compelling and attractive.

In Jakarta, hundreds of students at his former elementary school gathered around a television set to watch as results came in, erupting in cheers when he was declared winner and then pouring into the courtyard where they hugged each other and danced in the rain.

"We're so proud!" said Alsya Nadin, a spunky 10-year-old in pink-framed glasses as her classmates chanted "Obama! Obama!"

Democrats gain gov. seat; NC elects 1st woman gov.

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Jubilant Democrats celebrated wins in two open gubernatorial races Tuesday—in North Carolina, which elected its first woman governor, and in Missouri where a Democrat replaced a Republican.

The win in Missouri gave Democrats a momentary 29-21 edge in state capitals nationwide. Ten of 11 governorships were decided Tuesday, with results still hanging for Washington state.

In North Carolina, Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue's win kept the state in the hands of Democrats, who have held the governor's seat 88 of the last 100 years. Perdue replaces Democrat Gov. Mike Easley, who is stepping down because of term limits.

Perdue ignored predictions early in her political career about difficulties winning election as a woman. Running for governor, she pitched her reputation as a problem solver after years in state government.

"I haven't run simply because I'm the first woman candidate running, but I hear it everywhere I go," she said Tuesday. "Little girls and little boys, just say 'Wow, is it possible?' So, yeah, it's exciting, mighty exciting."

Said her opponent, Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory: "This was not the night we had planned, but I accept the voters' conclusions from North Carolina."

The results hinged on how many newly registered Democrats and black voters casting ballots for Barack Obama also voted for Perdue. Final results in the presidential race in North Carolina were still unknown, though Obama has won the presidency based on victories in Florida, Ohio, Virginia and elsewhere.

Across the country seven incumbents were re-elected. In Indiana, Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels easily turned back a Democratic challenger hoping to benefit from an expected strong turnout for Obama.

In Vermont, Republican Gov. Jim Douglas was re-elected to a fourth two-year term after beating back challenges from two rivals. Douglas had more than 50 percent of the vote with most precincts reporting. Staying above 50 percent was crucial, since the choice goes to the state Legislature in Vermont if the winner receives less than 50 percent.

Among other incumbents, Democrats in Montana, West Virginia and New Hampshire won re-election by a wide margin, as did Republicans in North Dakota and Utah. In Delaware, Democrat Jack Markell easily won the open seat.

Tuesday's races were a prelude to 2010, when four of every five states will elect governors who will help preside over the redrawing of legislative and congressional districts.

The tough campaigns in North Carolina and Washington offered hints of the battle to come, as the national Republican and Democratic governors' associations spent about $4 million on each of their candidates in each of the two states.

Asia

Taiwan, China make economic history

AP

China's top negotiator with Taiwan, Chen Yunlin, standing at left, shakes hands with his Taiwan counterpart Chiang Ping-kung at the start of direct meetings in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China and Taiwan made economic history Tuesday with a bold agreement that allows planes and ships to travel directly across the Taiwan Strait—the place where many have feared they would fight their next battle.

Still the Asian rivals appear far from resolving the root causes of nearly six decades of hostilities and distrust. The pact was possible because negotiators set aside thorny political disputes and only focused on trade and economics.

The new deal allows passenger flights directly across the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait that separates Taiwan from mainland China. In the past, planes had to fly into Hong Kong airspace while traveling between the two sides. Cargo ships, which used to have to stop at the Japanese island of Okinawa northeast of Taiwan, will be allowed to sail directly to the other side and cut hundreds of miles out of each trip.

The deal is significant for businesses and drew applause from three chambers of commerce representing Japan, the U.S. and Europe. The groups said in a joint statement the restrictions on flights and shipping have kept Taiwan from fully participating in the global and Asian economies.

"Taiwan can only benefit from having greater interaction with one of the world's fastest growing markets," it said.

In the eyes of China's leaders, Taiwan is a Chinese province that must eventually unite with the mainland or be invaded by the mainland's massive military.

A conflict could quickly draw in the U.S., which has long warned China's government it may defend Taiwan—a major buyer of American weapons. Even as they talk to China, the Taiwanese have been loading up on more U.S. arms, including Apache helicopters and Patriot missiles.

China detains factory owner in melamine scandal

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in a Chinese city have detained the owner of a feed processing factory suspected of selling chicken feed tainted with an industrial chemical that was later found in eggs, state media reported.

The official Xinhua News Agency said late Tuesday that authorities in the northeastern city of Shenyang found that the factory mixed an ingredient tainted with melamine into feed sold to the country's leading egg producer, Dalian Hanwei Enterprise Group.

A brand of Hanwei's eggs were found earlier this month by Hong Kong food safety regulators to contain excessive levels of melamine, prompting some retailers to pull the eggs from stores in China.

Xinhua said the owner of the Mingxing Feed Processing Factory, Gao Xingtao, was detained and the remaining tainted animal feed made by the factory was destroyed.

Phone calls to the public security bureau in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning province, rang unanswered Wednesday.

Commonly used in plastics and fertilizers, melamine is high in nitrogen, which registers as high protein levels in quality tests. The discovery of melamine-tainted eggs in Hong Kong prompted more inspections last week that found three other brands of eggs contaminated with the chemical.

Agriculture officials have speculated that the cause was adulterated feed given to hens. No illnesses have been linked to melamine in eggs.

Other ministry officials have said that the practice of deliberately adding melamine to animal feed was widely practiced, signaling that melamine contamination may be more widespread than in just baby formula and dairy products.

Infant formula tainted with the chemical has been blamed for sickening tens of thousands of children and causing the deaths of four infants.

ASIAN BRIEFS

42 die as Philippine ferry overturns; captain held

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine investigators on Wednesday detained the captain of a crowded ferry that overturned in freak weather, drowning 42 passengers, on suspicion of operating the vessel illegally. Some 100 people were rescued and eight were missing after the wooden-hulled Don Dexter Cathlyn was battered by winds and waves Tuesday shortly after leaving port in central Masbate island for nearby Sorsogon province, officials said. Victims included 12 children and a mother who lost her husband a week ago and died with her only child, said Masbate police chief Reuben Sindac. "There was this deep sense of sadness in the whole town last night," he said. Sindac said the captain, Dante Bombales, was taken into custody. Authorities also were looking for the owner.

Afghan villagers allege airstrikes kill civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two Afghan villagers are alleging that dozens of women and children attending a wedding party in southern Afghanistan have been killed or wounded by airstrikes. The two Afghan witnesses told The Associated Press that dozens of women and children had died. They are in the main hospital in Kandahar city alongside wounded relatives. The U.S. military says it does not yet have any information on the incident. President Hamid Karzai says there were civilian casualties as a result of airstrikes in the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar province. He did not say how many civilians were killed or wounded.

World

Iraqi views mixed on US presidential contest

BAGHDAD (AP)—Wasan Salah hopes Barack Obama will win the presidency because "he wants to withdraw the troops." An Iraqi Christian woman thinks he will too—and so she's rooting for John McCain.

Iraqis have nearly as big a stake in Tuesday's presidential contest as Americans, since the new president will face tough decisions on how to draw down U.S. forces without sacrificing security gains and vital American interests in the Middle East.

Many Iraqis are eager to see an end to a U.S. military presence they consider foreign occupation; American officials insist the troops are here to defend the Iraqi people against terrorists.

At the same time, many Iraqis also fear their leaders and security forces are not ready to protect the country. They'd like to see the Americans leave—but not too soon.

"I prefer that McCain wins the election so that he will pursue the same policy as President Bush," a middle-aged Christian woman told Associated Press Television News in a sidewalk interview near Baghdad's Tahrir Square.

"We are afraid that if Obama comes into office, he will withdraw the U.S. troops immediately and cause chaos in our country," she said, refusing to give her name because of security fears.

Those contrasting views are as different as the candidates' positions on Iraq.

Obama opposed the Iraq invasion of 2003 and has called for a complete withdrawal of combat troops within 16 months. McCain supported the decision to go to war and—like Bush—has opposed setting a timetable for the troops to leave.

McCain, a veteran and Vietnam War prisoner, has promised to pursue the Iraq war to victory.

"I prefer Obama because he wants to withdraw the foreign soldiers," said Salah, 24, who lives in Baghdad's Shiite slum of Sadr City, scene of heavy fighting last spring. "That might improve the situation in Iraq."

Ali Basil, a 23-year-old semiprofessional soccer player from the southern city of Basra, agreed.

"Obama will certainly win. McCain is a disaster. I like Obama because he's for withdrawing the troops from Iraq. I hope Obama would not change his mind when he takes office," Basil said.

The view is somewhat different in Kurdistan, the generally peaceful three northern provinces where Kurds have enjoyed self-rule since 1991.

US troops on front lines of war track election

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—U.S. soldiers on the front lines tuned in Tuesday to CNN and the Internet to track the presidential election that will decide the future of their mission. But for many, the day was spent like so many others on patrols, repairing equipment and other mundane tasks of war.

Troops in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan mailed in absentee ballots long ago - if they voted. So by the time election day arrived back home, there was nothing for them to do but await the results.

"We can't stop doing what we have to do. We got to keep running," said Maj. Gary Dangerfield of Chicago, spokesman for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment based in the northern city of Mosul.

It was hard to tell, however, whether soldiers were pleased with the outcome of the race. Public affairs officers in Iraq turned down requests by The Associated Press and other news organizatiions to ask soldiers whether they supported Sen. Barack Obama or Sen. John McCain.

Israeli officials report rocket barrage from Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli rescue services Wednesday reported a "massive" cross-border rocket barrage by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip—hours after an Israeli air strike in the first major exchange of fire since a truce took effect in June.

The Israeli military said in a statement that at least 35 rockets were fired from the strip early Wednesday, but there was no immediate word of injuries or damage.

The militant group Hamas said it fired the rockets.

Israel launched an airstrike on Gaza earlier Wednesday after its troops fought a fierce gunbattle with Hamas militants who then fired mortars into southern Israel. The fighting killed six Palestinians and threatened to unravel the truce that had mostly quieted violence in the volatile territory.

The violence was sparked after the Israeli army said its forces uncovered a tunnel about 300 yards inside the central Gaza Strip that militants planned to use to abduct Israeli soldiers. It said a special army unit headed to the area to destroy the tunnel.

The army said its operation did not violate the truce, but was a legitimate move to remove an immediate threat to Israel from Gaza, which is controlled by the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Hamas also insisted it had not violated the truce and was acting to prevent an Israeli incursion.

WORLD BRIEFS

20 reported dead in German bus accident

HANNOVER, Germany (AP)—A German tour bus caught fire on an autobahn near the northern city of Hannover on Tuesday night, killing 20 people after a passenger reportedly sneaked a cigarette, police said. Survivors told authorities the fire broke out in the bathroom of the bus as it drove down the A2 highway after a person apparently smoked a cigarette there, police spokesman Stefan Wittke said. When the door was opened, flames shot out and quickly engulfed the bus, he said. "Passengers who were sitting close to the exit could get away, but the others had no chance," fire department official Claus Roehrbein said. In addition to the deaths, thirteen people were injured in the blaze, including three with serious burns, according to the fire department. The bus had 39 primarily elderly passengers and the driver aboard, according to the Hannover-based company Mommeyer that owns it. Wittke, however, said 33 people were aboard the bus. It was not possible to immediately reconcile the difference.

Colombia army chief resigns amid scandal

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—The commander of Colombia's army resigned abruptly Tuesday in a widening scandal over the killing of scores of civilians, allegedly spurred by promotion-seeking officers to inflate rebel body counts. Gen. Mario Montoya, who won wide acclaim for the bloodless hostage rescue of Ingrid Betancourt and three U.S. military contractors on July 2, did not mention the scandal as a factor in his retirement after 39 years of service. He did, however, ask his countrymen not prejudge soldiers who have been implicated in the scandal, to afford them "the right to defend themselves." President Alvaro Uribe called Montoya "one of the best generals the republic has had" and swiftly named a replacement: Gen. Oscar Gonzalez, who currently heads the armed forces' joint Caribbean command. Montoya's resignation follows stinging criticism of an army policy he allegedly encouraged of promoting officers whose units kill the most leftist rebels.

Environment

Bush's marine monument proposal is criticized

By JULIET EILPERIN
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WASHINGTON—President Bush's vision for protecting two vast areas of the Pacific Ocean from fishing and mineral exploitation, a move that would constitute a major expansion of his environmental legacy, is running into dogged resistance both inside and outside the White House and has placed his wife and his vice president on opposite sides of the issue.

With less than three months before Bush's term ends, his top deputies are scrambling to try to execute a plan that would shield some of the world's most diverse underwater ecosystems. The original plan, which included four potential "marine monuments" and was well received by environmentalists, has already been scaled back.

Vice President Dick Cheney and some officials in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have argued that the plan could hurt the region's economy by barring fishing and energy exploration. First lady Laura Bush, along with a number of scientists and environmental advocates, has countered that preserving the region's natural attributes would attract tourism and burnish the president's record for history.

Laura Bush has asked for two briefings on the issue from White House staff members, and her aides have conferred with scientists who support the two designations.

"It's hard, but it should be," said James L. Connaughton, who chairs the White House Council on Environmental Quality and just returned from an overseas listening tour on the proposal. "These are big, consequential, national decisions that have international ramifications."

While environmental groups have pilloried Bush over his approaches to climate change, forest management and air pollution, many marine experts give him credit for his ocean policies.

In 2006 he designated the nearly 140,000-square-mile Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands, creating what at the time was the world's largest protected marine area. Scientists have advocated designating more such areas to protect them from the effects of overfishing, pollution and global warming, which are degrading oceans worldwide.

"There's pretty strong evidence that everyone will benefit from the establishment of no-take reserves," said Jane Lubchenco, a professor of marine biology at Oregon State University, adding that fish populations rebound both within the protected reserves and in nearby fishing grounds. "The administration made a major step forward in designating the Papahanaumokuakea National Monument, but that one alone is not enough to protect the full range of places and habitats and species that need to be protected. It will be part of (Bush's) legacy, but his ocean and environmental legacy could be much, much more."

Researchers and activists welcomed Bush's August memorandum asking Connaughton and the secretaries of defense, commerce and the interior to assess the two "marine conservation management areas" he might establish before leaving office.

One, in the central Pacific, would encompass an area known as the Line Islands and stretch about 2,000 miles from the Johnston Atoll to the Rose Atoll. The memo described the area as "isolated from population centers, mostly uninhabited" and supporting "endemic, depleted, migratory, endangered and threatened species of fish, giant clams, crabs, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, migratory shorebirds and corals that are rapidly vanishing elsewhere in the world."

The other area, in the western Pacific, would include the waters around two northern Mariana Islands and the 6.8-mile-deep Mariana Trench, the deepest ocean canyon in the world.

Both regions are treasure troves of biodiversity: Kingman Reef and other islands in the central Pacific area teem with sharks and other top predators; the Mariana Trench and its nearby islands are home to several species of rare beaked whales and the Micronesian megapode—an endangered bird that uses the heat from volcanic vents to incubate its eggs—as well as to mud volcanoes, pools of boiling sulfur and the greatest microbial diversity on Earth.

No one questions the ecological, biological and geological value of these sites, but supporters of protecting them—including Connaughton and advocacy organizations such as the Pew Environment Group—have faced serious opposition in convincing several key White House officials of the value of broad "no-take" reserves. Bush initially explored the idea of establishing other protected areas closer to U.S. shores, including one off the southeastern coast near a group of deep-sea corals and another in the Gulf of Mexico. After commercial and recreational fishing interests and oil companies objected, the administration decided to pursue existing resource-management plans in those areas instead.

Despite the islands' distance from the continental United States, the proposal to designate an area around the Northern Marianas—a U.S. commonwealth between Japan and Guam—has sparked considerable debate. Cheney and National Economic Council Director Keith Hennessey have questioned the impact on the region's economy, a concern some local officials also raised.

In a June 9 letter to Bush, Juan Borja Tudela, mayor of the Marianas' most populous island, Saipan, argued that "the loss of extractive privileges of natural resources in over 115,000 square miles of water ... far outweigh any benefits" that a marine reserve would yield. Another group of local officials wrote to Bush on Sept. 15, saying that the designation "would deny and take away from us the management responsibility of hundreds of years of successful stewardship."

The influential Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, a fierce opponent of marine reserves that tried to block the Hawaii marine monument, has also worked to keep the Northern Marianas open to fishing. On Oct. 20, the council, which regulates fishing in U.S. waters in the far Pacific, passed a resolution saying it "is concerned about the magnitude of areas being discussed" and insisted that local residents be allowed to review any proposal before it becomes final.

There has been significantly less controversy over designating the Line Islands in the central Pacific; much of the region is federal territory and sparsely populated.

Connaughton—who held meetings last month in American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam and Saipan about the two proposals—said the administration is sensitive to the issues that Marianas officials have raised.

"The vice president is flagging something I had already laid out in our policy briefings," Connaughton said. Officials in Saipan "want to make sure that local tourism concerns are going to be taken care of, which includes fishing off of Saipan. They're very interested in the potential of geothermal energy."

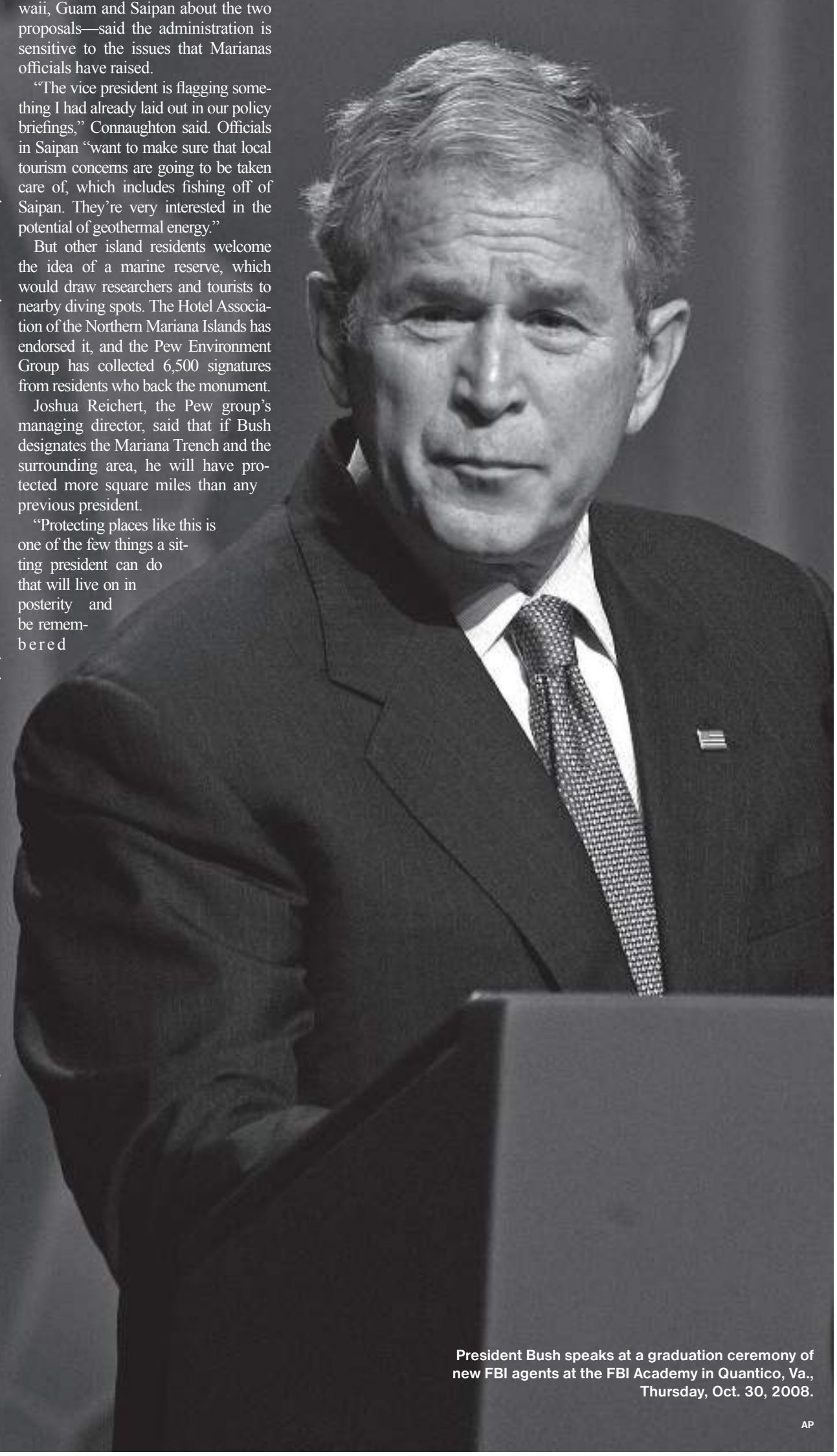
But other island residents welcome the idea of a marine reserve, which would draw researchers and tourists to nearby diving spots. The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has endorsed it, and the Pew Environment Group has collected 6,500 signatures from residents who back the monument.

Joshua Reichert, the Pew group's managing director, said that if Bush designates the Mariana Trench and the surrounding area, he will have protected more square miles than any previous president.

"Protecting places like this is one of the few things a sitting president can do that will live on in posterity and be remembered long after the other decrees and orders have been forgotten," Reichert said. "It would signal to the nation and the world that the sea needs to be treated as a threatened resource, and it will open up an era of global ocean conservation."

Claudia McMurray, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for oceans, environment and science, said the administration will be "working up until the last week" of Bush's term on the initiatives.

"While it would take a significant amount of work, we haven't ruled it out," she said. "We feel fairly confident, scientifically, there are so many unique species in that area, from that standpoint, we think it's important to wall off as much as we can."



President Bush speaks at a graduation ceremony of new FBI agents at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008.

AP

Life & Style

Historic, but calm Election Night for TV networks

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—After successive harrowing Election Nights in 2000 and 2004, there were no muffed calls by TV networks, no screwy exit polls, no real twists and turns—only the sense of history as Barack Obama became the first black man elected president.

The march of results coming in Tuesday night matched the growing size of crowds gathering in Chicago's Grant Park and elsewhere to celebrate the victory.

"It's the end of apathy," said NBC's Tom Brokaw. "People want to get involved in their political system."

When the polls closed in the West at 11 p.m. EST, The Associated Press sent a FLASH—"Obama wins presidency"—and the networks called the election, too, as their cameras panned cheering crowds, much like those at a World Series victory.

It was a party atmosphere in New York's Times Square and Rockefeller Center, where ABC and NBC set up giant outdoor screens at the sites of their studios. Throughout the evening, people gathered to watch results.

"I have never seen anything like this," NBC's Norah O'Donnell said while walking through the crowd.

People posted videos of their votes online, while the leading news site Yahoo! News had to add servers after the site briefly went down because of the volume of users.

Ominous signs for Republican John McCain appeared moments after 5 p.m. EST when exit poll information was broadcast.

Network news presidents were hauled before Congress eight years ago for their wrong Election Night calls. They were also burned severely in 2004 when the first wave of exit poll data pointed toward a John Kerry victory over President Bush. Going through exit poll data Tuesday, they shied away from horse-race figures in favor of issues. By a huge margin, voters said the struggling economy was the top issue.

AP
Deanna Pesik, left, from California reacts as she hears results from television that Barack Obama has been elected President of the United States at an election results gathering in Singapore on Wednesday Nov. 5, 2008.

"I've never seen an issue so predominant in this way," said ABC anchor Charles Gibson.

Another early finding: a majority of voters believed GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin wasn't qualified to be president.

Before 7 p.m., CNN's panel of experts was heaping praise on Democrat Obama. "This is a really good candidate, a natural as we say in sports," said Republican analyst Bill Bennett.

A key moment was the declaration that Obama had won Pennsylvania.

"I have to say right now that the McCain campaign strategy for victory has crashed," MSNBC's Chris Matthews said at 8:02 p.m. ABC and NBC were the quickest to call Pennsylvania.

Brit Hume was discussing the electoral map with analyst Karl Rove when Hume was given word that Fox News Channel was calling the key battleground of Ohio for Obama. "McCain's situation right now is looking pretty dire," Hume said at 9:17 p.m., an assessment other networks followed when they made their own calls for Ohio.

Without winning Ohio, CBS News' Bob Schieffer said he couldn't see McCain winning.

"The cake is baked, in your view?" anchor Katie Couric asked him.

"Yes," Schieffer replied.

On NBC, Brokaw and Andrea Mitchell tried to fill a void left by the late Tim Russert. Chuck Todd paid tribute with an electronic version of Russert's famous white board, inscribing "Bush, Bush, Bush" as the reason for McCain's defeat.

Russert's son, Luke, was stationed in Indiana reporting on Obama's ground campaign.

Fox's Hume, who's stepping back as a daily news anchor after Election Night, was a loose and occasionally goofy presence, at one point wheeling his chair across the studio. "This is so cool," he said as Bill Hemmer used an interactive wall. "If I did that, I would set that thing on fire."

CNN had the most talked-about visual effect of the night, a hologram that made correspondent Jessica Yellin appear in the New York studio when she was in Chicago.

It also had the day's most embarrassing interview: killing time in the morning, CNN sent Richard Roth into Times Square to interview "The Naked Cowboy" on his political preference.

The underwear-clad character was a McCain man.

Stewart, Colbert parody election in real-time

NEW YORK (AP)—Culminating their satirical coverage of the campaign, Comedy Central's Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert teamed up for a live one-hour comedy special—though Stewart had his Cronkite moment, too.

About 11 p.m. EST, Stewart became possibly the first comedian to announce presidential election result on live national television.

Sensing the end was imminent, the broadcast delayed its signoff for a moment, as offstage producers gave the closing cue while hovering over TV monitors showing CNN—and when they said the election had been called, the comedians effectively became newsmen.

Interrupting a Colbert writhing in mock disappointment at John McCain's loss, a clearly moved Stewart announced: "I would just like to say, if I may ... that at 11 o'clock at night, Eastern Standard Time, the president of the United States is Barack Obama."

It was a straight line on a broadcast full of parody.

Sitting at "The Daily Show" desk—expanded for the two anchors—Stewart and Colbert mocked over-the-top election coverage with fake reports from campaign headquarters and real updates on polling numbers.

"We don't normally do this live. We are a fake news show," Stewart told the crowd beforehand, putting emphasis on "fake."

But "The Daily Show" for years now has been regarded as a legitimate news source. Stewart's take on the news has been influential enough to draw visits from both McCain and Obama. "The Colbert Report" host infused himself into the race by briefly—and comically—running in the South Carolina primary.

The two comedians—Stewart himself, Colbert in his right-wing pundit persona—reacted to the night's news like a Democrat and Republican, respectively. Most of the gags went to Colbert.

Repeatedly, Stewart called the night a historic one, only to have Colbert each time correct that it was "AN historic" evening.

A desperate Colbert attempted distraction with a cockatoo, scoffed at blue states like Vermont and pleaded that McCain's win in South Carolina was "this year's bonus state"—tripling its electoral tally.

"Daily Show" correspondents pitched in, too, including a video interviewing voters prodding for evidence of the so-called Bradley Effect.

But comedy eventually subsided to the magnitude of the election results. After the broadcast—held in front of a raucous and partisan crowd—the cast exchanged hugs and Colbert and Stewart both went to the audience to embrace their wives.

In a brief interview after the broadcast backstage, Colbert was still rattled.

"I've never had this feeling before, which is: Things went well on Election Night," said Colbert, whose political views are not his character's. "I'm a little stunned. I don't know what to do with my happiness. I'm still afraid someone's going to take it away."

In the nearly two-year long presidential campaign, comedy was the unqualified winner, mirroring the candidates and the media every step of the way to great popularity. Like NBC's "Saturday Night Live," "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" each enjoyed record ratings and increased relevance.

The exit of the Bush administration, some have argued, will dwindle comedic fodder. But Tuesday night's show ended with Stewart rallying his correspondents and Colbert that their jobs would continue.

"There was a world out there before this election and there's still a world out there," Stewart said.

Afterward, Colbert, too, said the show would go on.

"It's like saying nighttime news will go out of business tomorrow," said a grinning Colbert. "Do you think that's gonna happen?"

Diddy votes: 'It was a joyous moment'

NEW YORK (AP)—New York remained a deep blue state on Election Day, going Barack Obama's way bigtime. Still, as Diddy cast his ballot for the Democratic presidential candidate Tuesday, he couldn't help but feel that he had made a difference.

"I felt like my vote was the vote that put him into office. It was down to one vote, and that was going to be my vote. And that may not be true, but that's how much power it felt like I had," the hip-hop mogul said.

After spending much of the campaign using his star wattage to get other people to the polls, Diddy, like other celebrity political boosters, led by example. He arrived at his polling site—a school in midtown Manhattan—in the morning and waited in line as a bevy of media prepared to capture the moment.

Diddy said he believed he was potentially making history by voting for the first black president, and also felt the weight of the past in the voting booth.

"I'm not trying to be dramatic, but I just felt like, Martin Luther King, and I felt the whole civil rights movement, I felt all that energy, and I felt my kids," he said. "It was all there at one time. It was a joyous moment."

Ricky Skaggs felt equally passionate about his choice. He voted early in his home state of Tennessee for Republican John McCain, a decision rooted in his Christian beliefs. He said he couldn't reconcile with Obama on issues ranging from abortion to how strong a supporter he would be of Israel.

"I have really gone to the Scriptures and that's the way I vote. I find a man or woman that to me, their principles, ... lines up with what I believe the word of God says," he said Tuesday. "That's how I vote, and that's the things that I stand on, I would have a hard time voting contrary to that."

Pete Wentz, bass player for Fall Out Boy, showed up at his polling center near Beverly Hills, Calif., which turned out to be the garage of a private home. The longtime Obama and Joe Biden supporter—who also rallied against a California proposition that would ban gay marriage—said his vote "feels important."

"I don't usually go out of my way to indoctrinate people or tell people, 'You should do this because of me, or you shouldn't do this because of me,' but I think it's important for people to get out there," said the 29-year-old rocker. His pregnant wife, singer Ashlee Simpson, wasn't with him, but Wentz said she would be out later to vote.

For Wentz, the vote for Biden for vice president was more than important—it was personal.

Voters take cameras into booths, testing laws

AP

Laura Wilson votes with a little help from her daughter Kloe, 6, and Son Elijah, 4, at Riverview Elementary School in Rancho Cordova, Calif., Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—In the digitized world of YouTube, Facebook and other Web sites, the voting booth no longer is the most private of places: People are documenting their votes like never before.

Throughout Election Day, voters were uploading videos and photos of themselves pulling levers and punching holes in ballots—a practice that could be unlawful, depending on the state. YouTube, in partnership with PBS, created an area on the Google-owned video-sharing site particularly for voting videos: http://www.youtube.com/videoyourvote .

Some videos document long lines or alleged instances of voter intimidation. Others merely revel in the democratic joys of voting, including first-time voters speaking outside their polling places.

"This is the first presidential election in which YouTube has existed," said Steve Grove, head of news and politics at YouTube, which was founded in 2005. "The user-generated revolution in content creation has really changed the way that we report our experiences to each other and also, really, how we hold each other accountable."

Many videos elsewhere on YouTube, though, show voters inside their voting booths. YouTube warns users of the legality of such videos by pointing to the state regulations outlined at the Citizen Media Law Project: http://www.citmedialaw.org .

Some states prohibit all recording inside polling places, including Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Nevada, North Carolina and Texas. Most states specifically prohibit the public display of one's marked ballot as a way to prevent possible voter coercion.

YouTube spokesman Aaron Ferstman said PBS is checking videos in the "Video Your Vote" section to make sure they're from a state where creating a video is legal.

"That said, it's in the hands of the voter to know what's legal and what's not in their area," said Ferstman.

Those laws also haven't stopped many from posting photos on Facebook or photo-sharing sites like Flickr. There's a group on Flickr called "US Election 2008" with more than 200 members: http://flickr.com/groups/uselection08 .

David Basner, 28, made his Facebook profile photo on Tuesday the one taken from his cell phone depicting his ballot marked for Barack Obama with his thumbs-up next to it.

"I wanted to mark the occasion and remember it—I have a feeling it's going to be a historic occasion," said Basner. "This is the first time that I voted where I had the means to do that without having to bring a camera."

Virtual world keeps tabs on presidential election

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A group has gathered beside a gazebo in an outdoor park to discuss the presidential election. But the park isn't real, it's in the online virtual world of Second Life, where pixelated avatars fly around and interact with each other.

The folks are hanging out at the Straight Talk Cafe, an online enclave that supports John McCain. "I think we need to know a little bit more about Obama," a character named Sophia Yates tells the group.

She's interrupted by another character, Auryn Karu, demanding to hear the group's thoughts about Sarah Palin.

"Auryn, just go to Obama's world," says another avatar, MarsS Juran.

Volunteers for the presidential candidates unofficially created campaign headquarters, held grass roots rallies, handed out virtual buttons and T-shirts, and signed up actual voters in the vast virtual world developed by San Francisco-based Linden Lab.

Many people decided to spend Election Day online - and they had plenty of company this time around.

Across the Internet, election watchers were discussing, celebrating and bemoaning the political process inside virtual worlds, on social networking sites and within blogs. They were also using techno-savvy Web sites such as Twitter, Google Maps and Flickr to share individual voting experiences, as well as monitor polling places across the country on Tuesday.

At the nonpartisan TwitterVoteReport.com, specially tagged Twitter.com micro-blogs about voting were being aggregated and pinpointed on an ever-changing online map. The 140-characters-or-less posts, called tweets, are also being used to estimate voting wait times. Some users were reporting short lines Tuesday morning, while others were complaining of much longer wait times.

"Longest lines ever at 7:30 a.m.," posted James Glanville from his iPhone in Newton, Mass. "Half-hour wait helped by 5th grade class Election Day bake sale. By the time I left at 8 a.m., 222 people had cast their ballots."

Not all the online pursuits were as serious.

In Electronic Arts' species-creation simulator "Spore," the game's developer created downloadable spaceships in the candidates' likeness. The John McCain and Sarah Palin ships were classified as an "endangered species," while the Barack Obama and Joe Biden vessels were deemed a "flourishing species" based on player votes Tuesday on the Sporepedia, the game's database of user creations.

Meanwhile, in the PlayStation 3 platformer game "LittleBigPlanet," several gamers had uploaded election-themed user-generated levels, including one titled "CNN Election Center" that featured dangerous obstacles amid photos of CNN news anchors. At the end of the level, players could cast a faux vote for either Obama or McCain, which both culminated in a splash of confetti and points.

Over at eBay.com, the auction on four one-of-kind Cabbage Patch Dolls crafted to look like the presidential and vice presidential candidates ended Tuesday. The Palin doll nabbed the most cash with a $19,000 bid while the Biden doll only brought in $3,500. The lil' Obama and McCain impersonators earned offers of $8,400 and $6,000, respectively.

AP

In this image provided by SecondLife, avatars wear Obama T-shirts while attending a meeting at the unofficial Barack Obama campaign headquarters in SecondLife, a virtual world where pixelated avatars fly around and interact with each other.

Kirsten Dunst in North Dakota for vote documentary

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—In making a documentary about how the nation votes, actress Kirsten Dunst and filmmaker Jacob Soboroff were drawn to North Dakota, the only state without voter registration.

"It's different than any other state in the United States, and what we're looking at is best and worst (voting) practices," Soboroff said Monday. "I don't know if it's a best practice or ... a worst practice, and that's why we're here."

AP

Filmaker Jacob Soboroff, center, and actress Kirsten Dunst, right, interviewed North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger at the Capitol in Bismarck, N.D., on Monday, Nov. 3, 2008.

Dunst, who has starred in three "Spider-Man" movies, and Soboroff are directing and producing a documentary, not yet titled, that explores why American voter participation lags behind turnout in most other countries.

"What we're looking to do is give a nonpartisan look around the United States, and around the world, at how people are affected by voting systems, and what that means to the voters," Soboroff said

They interviewed the state's chief elections officer, Secretary of State Al Jaeger, on Monday, and said they planned to interview other North Dakotans on Election Day. Dunst and Soboroff met in July when Soboroff was taping an election commentary for National Public Radio. Soboroff is the director of Why Tuesday?—a nonprofit organization that researches ways to increase voter turnout.

Dunst, 26, said she offered Soboroff some performance tips, and became interested in the organization's goals.

"The older you get, it makes you feel more and more responsible for the power you have, especially being in the entertainment industry ... and how delicate and important it is to use that power to influence people in a positive way," Dunst said.

Soboroff said he and Dunst are working with Participant Media, which produced "An Inconvenient Truth," a documentary on global warming that features former Vice President Al Gore.

Dunst said she plans to narrate the documentary, but doesn't know yet whether she will appear in it. Soboroff and Dunst have already voted; they cast absentee ballots Oct. 20 in the Los Angeles County registrar's office in Norwalk, Calif.

"Being a part of this is constantly teaching me new things," Dunst said. "I feel totally honored and was really proud to vote, and have never been so proud to vote in my entire life."

North Dakota doesn't require people to register to vote. Voters must bring a photo ID issued by the state, military or an American Indian tribe, a recent utility bill that lists the voter's residential address, or sign a sworn statement attesting that they are eligible to vote in their precinct.

Pooh's dip into honey fetches pounds at auction

LONDON (AP)—Tiggers might not like honey but collectors apparently do.

A sketch by Winnie the Pooh illustrator E.H. Shepard titled "Tiggers Don't Like Honey" fetched 31,200 pounds ($49,770) at auction Tuesday, well above the pre-sale estimate of 15,000 to 20,000 pounds ($24,000 to $32,000).

Bonhams auction house said the drawing, of Pooh dipping his paw into a honey pot while Tigger and Piglet look on, was bought by a private collector in Germany for his wife who had loved the characters as a child.

The large oval pencil drawing is an enlarged version of an illustration that appeared in A.A. Milne's children's classic "The House at Pooh Corner."

A sketch drawn for another of Shepard children's books, the Wind in the Willows, sold for 7,440 pounds ($11,842). The drawing outlines Rat and Mole having a picnic on the riverbank.

AP

In this undated image made available from Bonhams auction house in London, a sketch showing Winnie-The-Pooh reaching into a honey jar as Tigger and Piglet look on, an illustration that appeared in A.A.

The sale also included items from the collection of Peter Rabbit creator Beatrix Potter, including a letter in which the author expressed her dislike of the merchandising of her character. "There is nothing to be made of 'Peter' commercially," she wrote. "There have been dolls, china slippers, etc. for years—they bring in royalties; but somehow I never care for any of them."

The 1936 letter is addressed to dollmakers Elizabeth and Edith Todhunter, two sisters Potter entrusted to make Mr. McGregor and Peter Rabbit figures.

The Potter collection also included a signed first edition of "The Tailor of Gloucester," which tells the story of a poor tailor, his cat, and the mice that live in his shop. The lot sold for 3,840 pounds ($6,124).

The sale prices include a buyer's premium.

In another auction on Nov. 11, Bonhams will sell an unpublished watercolor illustration by Potter of a female rabbit who wore a pink ribbon around her neck but who did not appear in any of Potter's tales. Also going up for sale then, will be a Christmas card featuring guinea pigs designed by the author and illustrator, the auction house said.

BBC gets 500 complaints about 'Top Gear' TV show

LONDON (AP)—Just days after being engulfed in a controversy involving two of its biggest on-air personalities, the BBC acknowledged it has received over 500 complaints about an unsavory joke made by another of its leading presenters.

The complaints were about Jeremy Clarkson joking on his popular TV auto show "Top Gear" about truck drivers killing prostitutes, the British broadcaster said Tuesday on its Web site. In February, former truck driver Steve Wright was convicted of murdering five prostitutes in southeast England.

Clarkson, who is known for making edgy comments, was describing a driver's day.

"Change gear, change gear, check mirror, murder a prostitute, change gear, change gear, murder," he joked in the Sunday evening show that was watched by 7 million viewers.

"I just think it was highly distasteful and insensitive," said Brian Tobin, director of The Iceni Project, a charity for sex workers that had helped some of Wright's victims before they were murdered.

Just last week, the BBC was forced to defend its editorial standards after comedian Russell Brand and fellow presenter Jonathan Ross left lewd messages on the phone of 78-year old actor Andrew Sachs about his granddaughter.

Over 18,000 people complained about that broadcast and in the ensuing fallout, Brand resigned from his radio show, Ross was suspended for three months and Radio 2's much-respected controller Lesley Douglas stepped down.

Several people within the BBC also apologized publicly for the remarks. The BBC was not apologetic, however, about Clarkson's comments.

"The vast majority of "Top Gear" viewers have clear expectations of Jeremy Clarkson's long-established and frequently provocative on-screen persona," the BBC said in a statement. "This particular reference was used to comically exaggerate and make ridiculous an unfair urban myth about the world of lorry driving and was not intended to cause offense."

British media regulator Ofcom said it had received complaints about Clarkson's comments but was not currently investigating the matter.

Doctors remove tumor from Merle Haggard's lung

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—Merle Haggard is recovering after having a malignant tumor removed from his lung.

Friends said Monday's surgery at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital was a success and that the 71-year-old country crooner was in stable condition.

Doctors informed Haggard, who's from a Bakersfield suburb, about a spot on his lung in May. He told The Bakersfield Californian in August that he wasn't going to seek treatment, but friends and family members convinced him otherwise.

Haggard became a household name after the anthem "Okie From Muskogee" hit No. 1 in 1969. He has had 38 No. 1 hits stretching back to 1966.

Will.i.am to debut new video postelection

NEW YORK (AP)—Will.i.am felt so confident about Barack Obama winning the presidency, he's created a new song and video—much like his viral hit "Yes We Can"—to celebrate.

"It's A New Day" was to debut Wednesday on the Web site dipdive.com.

Once again, Will.i.am enlisted fellow celebrities, asking them to send him their video testimonials: He spent part of Election Night editing them so he could debut the final product the next morning.

"This was inspired by America. It's about Obama winning, and really paying tribute to those people who are responsible for that happening, and that's the American people," the Black Eyed Peas leader said Tuesday night. "The whole thing is really for people to leave testimonials ... to create a page and leave testimonials on how they feel about this American accomplishment."

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2008 file photo, singer Will.i.am, of The Black Eyed Peas, poses on the press line at the premiere of the feature film "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" in Los Angeles.

Will.i.am was an early backer of Obama's candidacy, and his video "Yes We Can"—which featured celebrities such as Ryan Phillippe, John Legend, Scarlet Johansson and others giving vocalizations to an Obama speech over will.i.am's music—was a viral hit when it debuted in February, getting millions of views online.

Will.i.am arrived Tuesday in Chicago, where he expected to spend the evening in Grant Park, the site of Obama's Election Night event.

Deftones bassist injured in car crash

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)— The bass player for the Deftones is in a San Jose hospital following a serious car crash.

The rock band's singer, Chino Moreno, says 38-year-old Chi Cheng was injured in the crash Monday in Santa Clara. Moreno told the Sacramento Bee that he didn't have many details but that it's "very serious."

The Deftones came together in Sacramento in 1988 and released their first album in 1995 on Madonna's Maverick Records label. A song on their 2000 album, "White Pony," earned the band a Grammy Award for best metal performance. The Deftones have been working on their sixth album for release next spring.

Tattooed mom greets curious stares with a friendly smile

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I read the letter from "Future Skin Artist, Port Huron, Mich." (Aug. 7), the 18-year-old male who wants to be a tattoo and piercing artist and who sports 20 piercings and a tattoo. He was complaining about the stares and cruel remarks he got from people.

I am a devoted 33-year-old mom of an 8-year-old son. I have a degree in computer forensics, a successful career, 34 piercings and 20 tattoos.

I started by getting my tongue and eyebrow pierced when I was 18. I have had to deal with all the same issues, and it used to frustrate me. Over the years, I have learned a few things about dealing with people.

Most people are not trying to be rude or offensive—they're just curious. It is essential to not be rude to them, but to smile and answer, "Of course it hurt, but it's not so bad."

I worked with a lady who was shocked when she saw me with my jewelry in. She said she could not believe that a nice person like me could have "those ugly things that criminals wear." After a discussion, she told me that she realized her stereotypes were wrong and would never judge a person that way again. It was one of the proudest days of my life.

GINGER IN MARYLAND

DEAR GINGER: Thank you for your input. I was impressed by the upbeat nature of the responses to that young man's letter. Read on for a sample:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: To the 18-year-old aspiring piercer/tattoo artist in Port Huron: If this is your future career, don't you realize that YOU are the best advertising you can get for your future business? You can't pay for the type of promotion you can give yourself.

If you really are as "nice" and "respectable" a human being as you say you are, answer people's questions with a smile and hand them your business card. Start a Web site and explain why you want to be a body modification artist. Keep people updated on how far along you are on your project.

You are in charge of how you will be perceived. Leave folks with a good impression and become the best tattoo artist in the Thumb! (That's a part of Michigan, for you outsiders.)

MICHIGAN RICK IN FLORIDA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Advising "Future Skin Artist" to move to Los Angeles was highly impractical. There is an overabundance of piercing/tattoo artists in California, particularly in L.A. He would be far better off to find a well-known, respected person in the field and approach that individual about an apprenticeship to learn the craft.

PROUD PAINTED LADY IN OHIO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Tell that guy to move to Pittsburgh. In my neighborhood, piercings, body art and fluorescent hair are as common as business people in suits. He wouldn't get a second glance here. Plus, Pittsburgh's a heck of a lot closer to his hometown than L.A.

TATTOOED BANKER

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When people gawk or ask questions, he should respond, "We must all suffer for our art."

MOM WHO UNDERSTANDS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Congratulations to "Future Skin Artist." You have a passion and know what you want to do in life. Some 40-year-olds still have no clue what they want to be when they grow up.

You'll hear comments about your appearance all your life. When someone asks about a piercing or tat, offer them your business card. You are a walking billboard. I wish you the best of luck!

MIDWEST MARY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

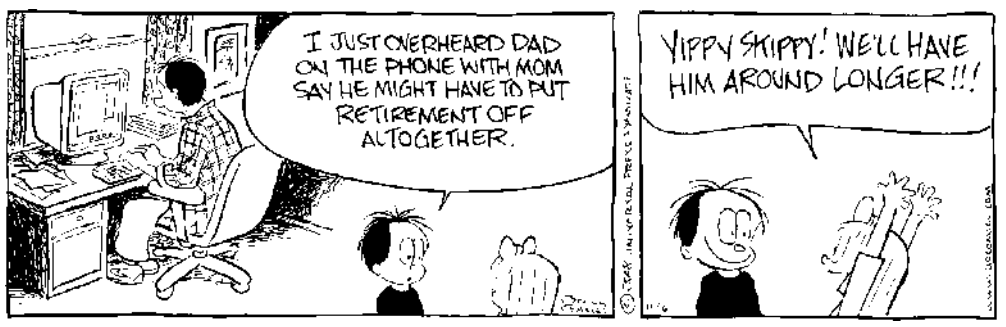
CALVIN, TAKE OFF YOUR OUTFIT BEFORE YOU SIT AT THE TABLE, OK?
CALVIN? WHO'S CALVIN? I'M STUPENDOUS MAN!
STOP BEING SILLY, AND DO AS I ASKED YOU.
BUT MOM, I NEED TO WEAR THIS FOR DINNER!
NO YOU DON'T. LET'S GO.
BUT STUPENDOUS MAN HAS A STOMACH OF STEEL!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I JUST OVERHEARD DAD ON THE PHONE WITH MOM SAY HE MIGHT HAVE TO PUT RETIREMENT OFF ALTOGETHER.
YIPPY SKIPPY! WE'LL HAVE HIM AROUND LONGER!!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Prospector's hope
5 Tie up the phone
8 Distort
12 Eye layer
13 Have bills
14 Tower city
15 Stationer's quantity
16 " the ramparts ..."
17 "Meet Me — Louis"
18 Like debts
20 Thingie
22 Pigs' digs
23 Solidify
24 Harbor structure
27 Airy
32 George's brother
33 Exist
34 Heady quaff
35 Bliss
38 Sailors' hoosegow
39 Listener
40 "CSI" evidence
42 Balance
45 Sent packing, at a talent show
49 Bakery buys
50 2008 Texas hurricane
52 "— want for Christmas ..."
53 Caspian feeder
54 Meadow
55 Subject, usually
56 Withered
57 Pitch
58 Competent

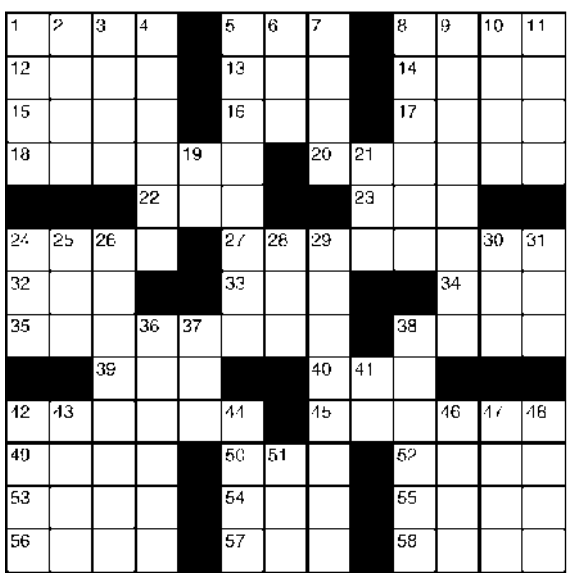
DOWN

1 Mentor
2 Microwave, e.g.
3 Bound
4 Grayish red
5 Tire company
6 Idolater's feeling
7 Opera composer Alban
8 Arachnophobe's worry
9 Mad monarch of drama
10 Being, to Brutus
11 Power measure
19 Tagged player
21 Time of your life?
24 Conk out
25 Tulsa sch.
26 1962 Peck movie remade with De Niro in 1991
28 Numerical prefix
29 Millinery
30 "The Greatest"
31 Journey segment
36 Big bother
37 Raw rock
38 Split need
41 "Fuhgeddaboudit!"
42 Comic strip penguin
43 Pink-slip
44 Pinball no-no
46 Amorphous mass
47 Hebrew month
48 Eat in style
51 Mauna —

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	O	L	D	■	I	R	E	■	G	L	U	M
O	V	E	R	■	D	A	Y	■	R	I	P	E
N	A	V	I	G	A	I	E	■	A	I	O	M
O	I	V	E	■	■	■	D	I	V	I	N	E
■	■	E	M	U	S	■	P	E	G	■	■	■
A	K	I	N	■	S	A	C	S	■	A	S	H
N	O	R	■	J	E	L	L	O	■	T	E	E
A	I	R	■	E	R	S	E	■	B	E	A	M
■	■	I	C	E	■	A	N	T	E	■	■	■
B	O	G	A	R	T	■	■	■	A	G	N	E	W
E	L	A	N	■	O	B	L	I	G	A	T	E
H	I	L	L	■	D	O	C	■	A	D	A	H
G	O	E	S	■	Y	A	W	■	R	A	T	E

Yesterday's answer 11-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute; touch-tone/rotary phones. (18 or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ethan Hawke, 38; Lori Singer, 51; Glenn Frey, 60; Sally Field, 62

Happy Birthday: Before altering your life, weigh the pros and cons. If you're still unsure when all the cards are on the table, sit tight and see what comes down the pipeline. With each day a new set of possibilities will arise. Hone your skills, curb your habits and stick to a strict budget. If these three things are accomplished this year, you will get ahead in following years. Your numbers are 2, 14, 21, 22, 29, 36, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be willing to try new things if you are stifled personally and creatively. Letting someone else get involved in your plans will probably hold you back. Don't give to an unworthy cause. 4 stars

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you are too forgiving or emotionally sensitive you will be taken advantage of. A demand made by someone you thought you could trust must be dealt with immediately and with a negative response. Clarify your position. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make things happen and get the backing you need, so don't disappoint anyone by thinking the work will get done magically. Roll up your shirtsleeves, do the best you can and the returns will be higher than anticipated. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Have fun and enjoy the moment but don't give your heart or your friendship to someone you know little about. Deception is apparent. Keep your personal information to yourself and learn from the experience you have. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep things in perspective, especially if they have to do with friends, family and money matters. Worry can cause ill health, so avoid getting involved in something that will cause stress. Problems with your home or a move can be resolved as long as you stay calm. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Refrain from passing judgment on someone who may just be confused. Listening to other people's problems will make you realize your own and how you can best deal with them. An opportunity at work may not be all it's cracked up to be. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't shy away from letting others know how you feel. If you are open, you will obtain the freedom you require to live your life as you please. A creative idea will allow you to fulfill a dream, so don't waste it. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Tread carefully if you are dealing with someone who is jealous or doesn't want to share you with anyone or anything. An unusual offer is heading your way that can solve your problems regarding a project you are working on. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can talk your way in and out of anything if you are complimentary and expressive. Strive for perfection and the rights of others but don't take advantage of someone's emotional vulnerability. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There are better ways to get what you want than with ultimatums. If you don't like the way things are developing, don't hesitate to take a pass and reassess your situation. Cut your losses before you are in too deep. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You aren't likely to see things clearly, so don't try to fix something without first understanding what's wrong. Emotional matters will influence what you do and whom you see. Don't feel pressured to make a hasty decision. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make sure you know what you are doing or you will be scrutinized every step of the way. Don't expect others to bend to your whims. Put everything in order before you let others get involved. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You've got style, a powerful persona and are creative, hardworking and admired by your peers. You are sensitive and interested in others.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	9	2			
		8				6
	5			9		
6		4				9
	2	5			6	
7		2				4
	7			5		
3		9				
		6	4		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	8	1	9	2	6	3	7
1	3	2	7	8	6	4	9	5
6	7	9	3	4	5	2	1	8
7	1	5	9	6	3	8	4	2
8	2	6	5	1	4	3	7	9
4	9	3	8	2	7	5	6	1
3	6	1	2	5	9	7	8	4
9	5	4	6	7	8	1	2	3
2	8	7	4	3	1	9	5	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonder word.

DAN CARLIN ON iTUNES — Solution: 10 letters

A	M	A	R	D	E	O	I	D	A	R	I	A	F	C
C	F	C	R	T	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I
G	G	I	I	M	S	O	F	T	T	R	E	A	T	T
E	N	V	L	S	O	O	I	F	O	E	M	S	A	L
N	I	I	S	M	S	R	H	C	O	O	R	C	A	E
E	L	L	T	T	W	A	D	A	R	C	T	N	S	C
R	L	I	N	S	R	R	L	R	M	I	M	N	E	B
A	F	Z	O	F	A	A	F	C	C	S	F	F	H	T
T	T	A	T	H	W	C	T	H	R	S	T	W	S	L
I	Y	T	A	E	A	S	D	E	N	N	A	M	I	O
O	R	I	C	R	Y	E	I	O	G	K	E	E	R	G
N	O	O	C	L	B	D	M	L	P	Y	R	D	I	I
X	I	N	A	A	L	M	I	O	H	E	C	I	C	C
A	S	N	T	O	O	R	I	G	H	T	S	A	R	A
Y	A	F	S	C	O	O	K	Y	T	R	F	B	I	I

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Yesterday's Answer: Raffles

WONDERWORD offers the Book of Celebrities, for $8.95 each (add $3 for postage and handling). Send to: Universal Press Syndicate, $8.95 book, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Credit card orders call toll-free 1-800-255-5231 or 1-888-551-5200. Order online at www.puzzles.com.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, vs. **WILMER R. SABLAN aka WILMER RABAGO SABLAN and EMERITHA T. TORRES aka EMERITHA TAISACAN TORRES,** Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0360

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 942 containing an area of 917 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 18, dated December 03, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4286, dated December 09, 1993, the description herein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 1st, December, 2008, at the hour of 3:00p.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, November 5, 2008.

/s/ **VINCENT J. SEMAN**
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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WHATZIT Solution: In hot water

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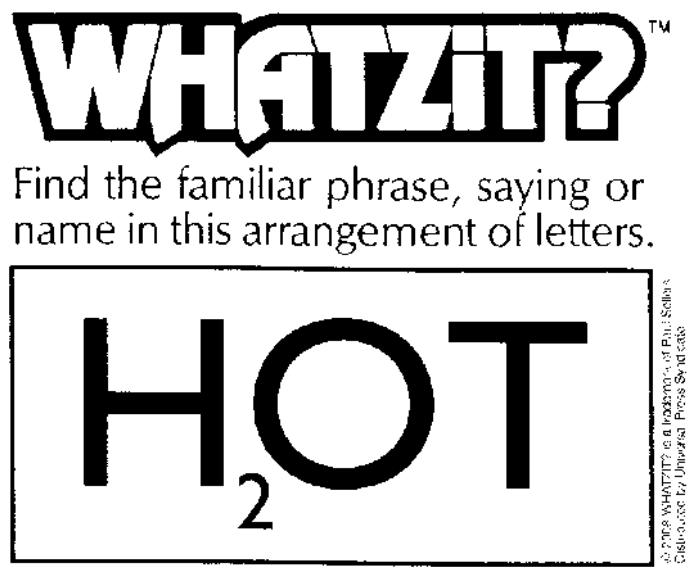

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Bell scores 22 as Suns beat Nets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Raja Bell hit all six of his 3-pointers and scored 22 points, and the Phoenix Suns shot 63 percent from the field in beating the New Jersey Nets 114-86 on Tuesday night.

Steve Nash added 12 points and 11 assists, Shaquille O'Neal had 18 points and six rebounds and Amare Stoudemire added 14 points as the Suns won for the third time in four games.

Vince Carter had 19 points and Yi Jianlian added 15 and eight rebounds for the Nets, who lost their second straight game.

The only thing that kept the game interesting and close was the Suns' 20 turnovers and election updates during timeouts.

The New York metropolitan area crowd was decidedly pro Barack Obama, cheering wildly each time he either won a state or his electoral college lead was posted. John McCain wins were greeted with boos.

For the game, the Suns were 43-of-68 from the field, and 12-of-18 from 3-point range. The Nets shot 34 percent, hitting 28 of 83 shots.

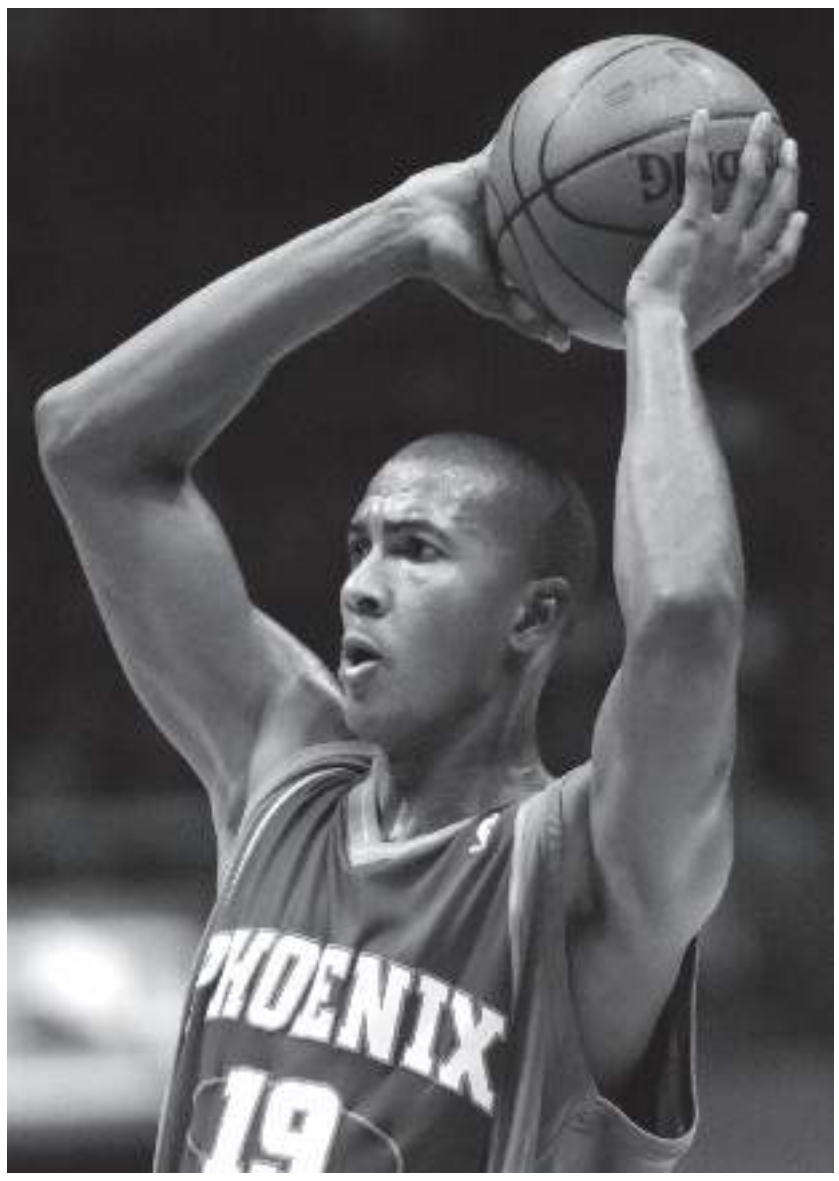
Phoenix never trailed, scoring the first seven points with Bell and Matt Barnes each hitting 3-pointers.

New Jersey, which trailed by 11 points in the opening minutes, got within three points late in the first quarter before Grant Hill pushed the lead to five with a short runner.

The second quarter followed the same script with Boris Diaw and Nash hitting a short shot and layup, respectively, in the final minute to give Phoenix a 65-55 lead.

The Suns blew the game open in the third quarter as O'Neal, who was 7-of-9 from the field, scored 10 points, while Nash added seven points, three assists and two rebounds to push the lead to 92-77. Bell, who was 7-of-9 from the field, hit his final three 3-pointers in the quarter.

The game was also the first pro matchup between the Lopez twins—Brook of the Nets and Robin of the Suns. Both finished with two points, combining for 2-of-10 shooting from the field.



AP

Phoenix Suns' Raja Bell looks to pass the ball during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game against the New Jersey Nets Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008 in East Rutherford, N.J.

NBA BRIEFS

Billups not likely to make Nuggets' Wednesday game

DENVER (AP)—Chauncey Billups isn't likely to make his Denver Nuggets debut on Wednesday night at Golden State. The Nuggets said Tuesday Billups didn't have enough time to get to the Bay Area. He was in Charlotte with the Pistons when the deal took place. Denver acquired Billups, a point guard and Denver native, along with Antonio McDyess and Cheikh Samb from Detroit on Monday in exchange for Allen Iverson. Billups will likely play in his first game for the Nuggets on Friday night when they host Dallas.

Rockets' Steve Francis shows support for Obama

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston guard Steve Francis made a political fashion statement before the Rockets played the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night. Francis, who's been out since last season with a knee injury, arrived at the arena wearing a red velvet sports jacket with "Barack Obama" spelled on the back in sequins. If Obama wins the presidency, Francis said he would try to attend the inauguration. "Today is a transitional day in my career and everybody else's career," he said before the game. "Hopefully, there will be a change." Francis said he had the jacket made by a tailor in New York City, where he played for the Knicks in 2006-07. He would not divulge how much it cost, but said he got it last week and was wearing it for the first time. "Hopefully, this will show my support," he said. The three-time All-Star played only 10 games last season before tearing a tendon near his right knee. He underwent surgery on Feb. 26, but his return is indefinite as he works his way back into playing shape.

Mavericks 98, Spurs 81

At San Antonio, Dirk Nowitzki scored 30 points, Jason Terry added 29 in his first start of the season and Dallas sent San Antonio to its first 0-3 record in 35 years.

Dallas (2-2) also got 14 points from Josh Howard. The Mavericks shot 53 from the floor compared to 42 for San Antonio. Dallas outrebounded San Antonio 48-38.

The Spurs (0-3) are off to their worst start since opening the 1973-74 ABA season 0-4. It was their first season in San Antonio after playing in Dallas as the Chaparrals. The Spurs joined the NBA in 1976.

Tony Parker led San Antonio with 22 points and Tim Duncan scored 19 as the Spurs continue to play without Manu Ginobili. He's not expected back until December after surgery to repair his left ankle.

Celtics 103, Rockets 99

At Houston, Ray Allen scored 29 points, Kevin Garnett added 14 points and 11 rebounds and Boston shut down Ron Artest and Yao Ming in a victory over Houston.

Tracy McGrady scored 26 points for Houston and tried to rally the Rockets down the stretch.

Paul Pierce added 13 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics. Yao went 4-for-14 from the field and scored eight points, while Artest missed 13 of 16 shots and scored 15.

MLB BRIEFS

Padres narrow field for Jake Peavy trade talks

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—The San Diego Padres have narrowed the field of suitors for ace pitcher Jake Peavy, focusing on three National League teams. Peavy has $63 million in guaranteed money remaining on his deal, which runs through 2012 and contains a club option for 2013. General manager Kevin Towers said that based on conversations with Peavy's agent, Barry Axelrod, he is dealing with five AL teams and two NL clubs, but only a trio of National League squads is being given intense consideration. "Jake and Barry have told me there's really kind of three that they want us to focus on. Those are the three we've been focusing on," Towers said Tuesday at the GM meetings. "I haven't had a lot of dialogue with the other four. Those clubs are still, in his mind, iffy." Towers wants two major leaguers plus prospects in return. He doesn't expect a trade to happen quickly but anticipates dealing the 2007 NL Cy Young Award winner. "When you start heading down this path, it's probably more likely to happen than not happen. I've got that feel," Towers said. Axelrod said the Padres approached him about a possible trade because of the team's financial situation and need to rebuild. Peavy has a no-trade clause, and Axelrod said he gave San Diego a list of five potential candidates the pitcher would approve a deal to. "He doesn't want to leave here. It's his home," Axelrod said.

AJ Burnett tells Blue Jays he'll opt out of deal

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—A.J. Burnett told the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday that he will opt out of the remaining two seasons of his $55 million, five-year contract. The pitcher will forfeit $24 million and can file for free agency. His contract called for a $6 million signing bonus, a $1 million salary in 2006 and $12 million in the remaining seasons. Blue Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi said talks will continue on the possibility of a new deal for the hard-throwing right-hander, who turns 32 in January. "We have a good dialogue going," Ricciardi said at the general managers' meetings. "They're going to get back to us later in the week." Burnett went 18-10 with a 4.07 ERA in 34 starts this season and led the American League with 231 strikeouts. He went 10-8 in each of his first two seasons with Toronto, and injuries limited him to 21 starts in 2006 and 25 the following year. With pitching scarce, Burnett figures to be a target for high-revenue teams such as the New York Yankees and Mets, and the Boston Red Sox. His agent, Darek Braunecker, left open the possibility of re-signing with Toronto.

Yankees decline 2009 options on Giambi, Pavano

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP)—The New York Yankees declined their 2009 options on first baseman Jason Giambi and pitcher Carl Pavano, making the pair eligible for free agency.

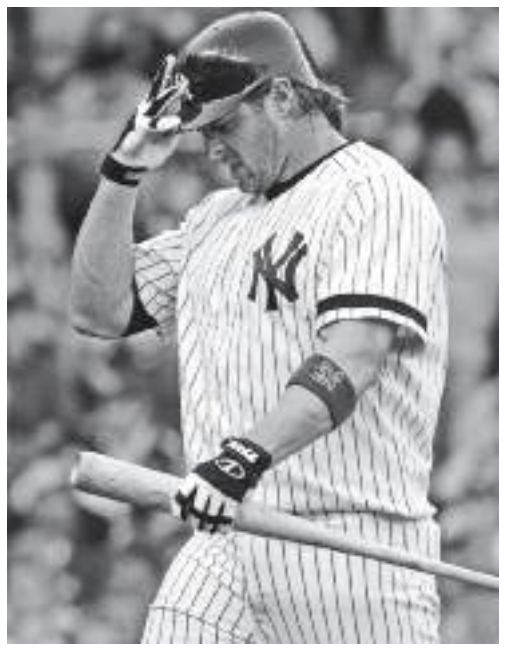
"Given the circumstances and the money involved, I don't think they were surprises to anybody," general manager Brian Cashman said Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte was quoted as saying he would like to return to New York next season. Pettitte had said late in the season that likely would be his decision.

"That's what I would like to do, obviously," Pettitte told Houston television station KRIV. "Hopefully, we can see if something happens."

Giambi will receive a $5 million buyout rather than a $22 million salary next season, completing his $120 million, seven-year contract. Pavano gets a $1.95 million buyout instead of a $13 million salary, finishing his $39.95 million deal.

The 2000 AL MVP with Oakland, Giambi hit 209 homers during his time with the Yankees. Slowed by injuries and in the center of controversy during baseball's performance-enhancing drug investigation, Giambi failed to win any World Series titles during his stint in New York.



AP

In this May 23, 2007 file photo, New York Yankees' Jason Giambi walks back to the dugout after striking out against the Boston Red Sox during the second inning in Major League Baseball action at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Pavano was one of the biggest free-agent busts, spending most of the past four years on the disabled list. He made only 26 starts during the contract, going 9-8 with a 5.00 ERA.

Cashman wouldn't rule out signing Giambi at a lower price. He also said he wouldn't eliminate the possibility of keeping Pavano—which seems remote.

"I'm going to keep all my options open," Cashman said. "I'm not closing the door on anything and anyone."

In a sign that Giambi might want to return to the Athletics, Oakland announced Tuesday that Bob Alejo will become its director of strength and conditioning. Alejo was Oakland's strength and conditioning coach from 1993-2001 and followed Giambi to the Yankees, working for Giambi personally and for the team during some years.

"A very high-energy guy with a young team," A's general manager Billy Beane said. "We thought it was a good combination."

Pettitte was 14-14 with a 4.54 ERA this year—his highest ERA since 1999. The 36-year-old left-hander, who returned to the Yankees before the 2007 season, was 2-7 with a 6.23 ERA in his final 11 starts, and he missed his last turn because of a sore pitching shoulder,

"I've had it checked out. The doctors told me that everything looks good. I just need some rest," Pettitte said. "If there was any chance of surgery or anything like that, it would have made it extremely simple and say I was going to be done."

If he does return, he likely would have to take a cut from his $16 million salary this season.

QB Roethlisberger has MRI on shoulder

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Byron Leftwich has already shown the Pittsburgh Steelers he can finish. He may get the chance Sunday to prove he can start. With starter Ben Roethlisberger's status for Sunday's game against the Colts uncertain due to his reinjured right shoulder, the Steelers (6-2) may give Leftwich his first start since last Nov. 18 with Atlanta.

Roethlisberger underwent an MRI exam Tuesday, but the Steelers did not immediately release the results. He reinjured his separated right shoulder on a quarterback sneak near the end of the second quarter Monday night.

Leftwich took over to set up a touchdown with a long completion on his first throw, threw for a score and led another TD drive during a 23-6 win in Washington.

Leftwich's linescore for a short but productive night's work: 7 of 10 for 129 yards, no interceptions and one satisfied locker room as the Steelers preserved their AFC North lead.

"He made a lot of friends in there," coach Mike Tomlin said.

The sore shoulder has bothered Roethlisberger, though he hasn't said how much, since he was hurt Sept. 7 against Houston.

"I'm sure his shoulder has affected him," Tomlin said. "How much it has affected him, I don't know. It really is kind of irrelevant. We really don't look for or seek excuses. We don't make them, whether we're talking about Ben or anybody else."

Unless Roethlisberger's injury heals in a hurry during a shortened week of preparation, the Steelers may need Leftwich to bail them out again.

"No, it does not surprise me," Tomlin said Tuesday of Leftwich's ability to come off the bench and throw quickly and effectively. "That's one of the characteristics of Byron. That's who he is. He's a quick decision maker. ... That's what makes him who he is."

A former first-round pick and starter in Jacksonville, Leftwich spent last season with the Falcons after being cut by the Jaguars.

"He's an experienced player. He's not new to this," running back Willie Parker said. "Nobody was surprised by how well he came out and played. Ben went down and Byron seamlessly came in and did what he had to do."

Leftwich's mobility doesn't match Roethlisberger's, but his arm may be as good or better. Surprisingly, Leftwich was out of the league when NFL training camps opened and signed with Pittsburgh only after former backup Charlie Batch broke his collarbone Aug. 8. Batch is out for the season.

"I truly don't know the offense yet," Leftwich said. "I just got here late in the preseason, so that's what makes it tough."

The Steelers felt they were equipped to handle a Roethlisberger injury with Batch around; he was 3-0 as a starter in 2005 and 2006. They feel the same way with Leftwich, who is expected to seek a starting job elsewhere in the league after this season.

"That's the hardest position, backup quarterback," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "To come into the game after really not taking a lot of reps in practice, he did a phenomenal job. Byron gave us fits down in Jacksonville for a long time, so it's great he can come off the bench with the guys trying to rally around him."

Depending on Roethlisberger's status, the Steelers may have to rally around Leftwich again Sunday.

"He practices every week like he is going to help this team win the next game," linebacker James Harrison said. "He did the job we expected him to do."

Tight end Heath Miller (sprained ankle) is doubtful for Indianapolis (4-4), but Tomlin said safety Ryan Clark (shoulder) could return after missing one game. Tomlin offered no update on left tackle Marvel Smith (back), who hasn't played in a month.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) is brought down by Washington Redskins defensive tackle Kedric Golston, obscured at center, after breaking past Steelers guards Darnell Stapleton (72) and Chris Kemoeatu (68) during the second quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Nov. 3, 2008, in Landover, Md.

Armstrong still unsure about riding Tour de France

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Lance Armstrong has yet to decide whether he will try for an eighth Tour de France title in 2009.

"I want to say I'm not trying to be coy; I'm not playing games with them (the Tour) or with fans or with media. I simply don't know," Armstrong said Tuesday during wind tunnel testing at the San Diego Air & Space Technology Center. "I'm not in a hurry. It's Nov. 4. ...

"I know there is tension. There is tension with French cycling fans, with French media and certainly tension with the organizers. And right now I don't want to deal with tension. And I don't know if I want to deal with tension in July."

Jean-Etienne Amaury, the new president of the Tour's organizer, said last month that Armstrong had "embarrassed" the event.

Armstrong suggested his safety might be at risk if he enters the Tour again. The Austin, Texas, resident recalled watching his hometown college football team, the Texas Longhorns, lose at Texas Tech last weekend.

"(Texas Tech fans) hated, hated Texas; they hated them. ... I'm at home watching it and the trick there is that you're in a stadium and you're sort of protected," Armstrong said. "Cycling's not that way. So if they hate you and you're on the roads and they want you, they can get you."

His last Tours "weren't good," Armstrong said.

He doubted that the animosity would subside between now and the Tour's start in July.

"The only way it would change is if I gave up my American citizenship and became a French citizen, which is obviously not going to happen," Armstrong said. "And that might not even change it."

Armstrong questioned why he seems to be embraced by fans in other parts of Europe but not in France.

"It's very weird and the psychology of it, I can't figure it out," he said. "In a sense it's a historical event to them; no one had ever won more than five. The way I race the Tour, even stuff like I'm doing here today, the thought and methodical approach, and the robotic approach to racing, not showing emotion, not showing suffering or pain, is not a popular style of racing in France.

"To them panache is the guy who suffers and is swinging all over his bike and looks like he's about to fall off. And I've never found that to be an effective way to try to win."

AP

Cyclist Lance Armstrong warms up before riding a Trek prototype bicycle at the Low Speed Wind Tunnel in San Diego, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008.

Browns change QBs, turn to Quinn to right season

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Derek Anderson answered the final question, bowed his head and stared blankly at the floor. He then walked slowly toward a door at the far end of Cleveland's locker room, pausing to exchange a fist bump with linebacker and fellow team captain Andra Davis on his way out.

Seconds later, Brady Quinn entered to face a media semicircle in front of Anderson's stall.

Quietly, the quarterbacking torch was passed.

On a Tuesday in which change was the buzzword across the country, power shifted for the Cleveland Browns.

The team began a new era with fan favorite Quinn as its on-field leader. He'll replace Anderson, benched by coach Romeo Crennel who said he based his decision on the Pro Bowl QB's inconsistent play, Cleveland's poor offensive ranking and the club's disappointing 3-5 record at the season's halfway point.

"I felt like we needed a different dynamic on the offense," said Crennel, who added that he had been considering a Quinn-for-Anderson swap "for a while now."

The switch came one day after Anderson threw a costly interception late in the fourth quarter of Sunday's 37-27 loss at home to the Baltimore Ravens. Thousands of Cleveland fans, who have been enamored with idea of Quinn under center almost from the moment he arrived, responded to the pick by chanting "Bra-dy! Bra-dy!" in the final minutes.

The timing of the change—coming in a short week with the Browns hosting Denver on Thursday night—has prompted some to wonder if Crennel was obeying orders from higher in the organization or perhaps reacting to public pressure. Crennel, though, maintains it was his decision alone to go with Quinn, the former Notre Dame star who will make his first NFL start against the Broncos (4-4).

"The short week had nothing to do with it," Crennel said. "It was just time, so I did it. We're not throwing in the towel. We're not giving up on the season. We're going to beat Denver."

Browns linebacker Willie McGinest, who also played for Crennel in New England, said the abruptness of the decision seemed to go against the coach's steady-as-she-goes nature.

"There you go," said McGinest, who plans to retire following this season, his 15th. "You figure out where it's coming from then. Your guess is better than mine. I can't get involved in those type of theories, or who made the call. ... it's a decision somebody decided to make, or a collective group decided to make."

Anderson, who led the Browns to 10 wins last season, was shocked by his demotion. But the soft-spoken, rocket-armed, 25-year-old understands the rationale behind the change.

"We didn't win enough games," he said. "We're 3-5. That's how it is in this league. It's a bottom-line thing. RAC (Crennel) has always told us that, you've got to win. That's kind of how things go and a lot of times it goes to the quarterback."

Anderson threw six interceptions in his first four games, but he had just one in his previous four and seemed to be getting himself turned around. It didn't help him that No. 1 wide receiver Braylon Edwards had dropped 14 passes and that he hasn't had his full complement of targets with Joe Jurevicius out for the season and Donte' Stallworth slowed by injuries.

"Obviously it is a team game and I can only control what I can control," Anderson said. "Obviously it's tough getting your job taken away from you. It means a lot to me, I put a lot of effort into it, and that's probably the hardest thing for me."

The Browns now turn to the wildly popular Quinn, whose No. 10 jersey was already in demand and should see another spike in sakes. Quinn has prepared for the possibility he'll get into a game by studying film, directing the scout team and helping Anderson get ready. Now, he's the one in the spotlight—and under the magnifying glass.

Quinn hasn't played in such a meaningful game since Jan. 3, 2007, when he made his final start for the Fighting Irish against LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

"Yeah, it's been a little while," he said, laughing. "I'll have to dust off the ol' cleats and shoulder pads and everything. It's going to be fun to get back out there."

Masters caging eyes Nov. 10 start

Organizers of the Masters Basketball League is hoping to kick off the 2008 season of the MBL on Nov. 10 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MBL coordinator Arnold Mesa said so far eight teams have shown their interests in competing in 35-and-above caging.

Mesa said interested teams must submit an initial payment of $250 before they are allowed to play in the league. The remaining $250 will be paid on installment basis.

The MBL coordinator added the league will be implementing a new rule on age requirement.

Teams can have on their rosters only four players in the 35 to 39 age group. The remaining eight players must be in the 40-and-above age group.

Mesa said the new rules aims to have balance in the league.

This year's Masters caging will serve as a preparation for players interested to compete in the Guam Masters tournament in December and in the World Masters Olympics in Sydney, Australia next year.

This year's Masters caging was supposed to start in August, but frequent power outages forced organizers to move the opening of league on a later date.

For more information, contact Mesa at 878-8679. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ACME

From Page 28

The Oakies recorded their fifth win in nine games and are in sixth place. Despite the loss, the MHS Peers are three notches higher than the Oakies in the team standings, as the former's 6-3 mark is the league's third best.

In the last game in the penultimate day of the regular season, Thai One On swept the last two sets to down Karakuchi.

Karakuchi took the opening set, 21-17, but lost the game when Thai One On prevailed in the last two sets, 21-11, 21-18.

Karakuchi and Thai One On have identical 6-4 records, but the former claimed the No. 4 spot with it 18 sets won compared to the latter's 16.

Kimoichi and Off Twice, which did not play Tuesday night, are in seventh and eighth place completing the playoffs cast.

The league's regular season will end tonight with Acme Roofing going for a sweep when it battles the MHS Oakies in the last game of the night at 8:30pm.

In the first game at 5:30pm. the Dof-Fins will aim to break into the win column and have a decent finish in the league when they duel Champ-On.

Off Twice will go for win No. 5 when it collides with MHS Serves Up! in the second game at 6:30pm.

The third match of the night will feature Enyophace squaring off with the MHS Peers at 7:30pm.

Playoffs will start on Nov. 11 with a double-elimination format, while the championship match will be played on Nov. 13.

MIEKO

From Page 28

which has always been her waterloo, was again no picnic. She said she was surprised that the swim had so many people and a lot of them were packed into one small area in the water after the second lap.

But she still felt fine after coming out of the surf and going into the transition area for the bike split.

But around the second mile of the bike race, she felt excruciating pain in her stomach.

"I was thinking maybe I was drinking too much water. So I tried not to drink that much even though I felt thirsty. But I knew from adventure racers that I have to drink before my body feels the need to drink. So I drank again and I felt my stomach balloon again."

That's when she started wondering why she was doing the race.

"I don't want to do this! Why am I doing this? I never want to come back here!" she told herself, her negative thoughts getting the better of her.

She said throwing up on the side of the trail, or worse, pulling out of the race completely suddenly became appealing.

Fellow Saipan triathlete Eli Torgeson then passed Carey after what course veterans call the Heartbreak Hill, but the former PIC Clubmate was feeling so bad that she didn't want to talk to the CHC anesthesiologist and ignored him altogether.

"When he passed me he talked and asked me about my swim or something I thought 'I cannot talk to you now and please go'," she said, feeling guilty later that she snubbed her friend.

Around the 7-8 mile mark of the bike, Carey started to feel better, as her trademark enthusiasm began to take over and whatever doubts she had of finishing the race disappeared.

"I just started thinking about finishing the race. Then I saw people had encountered problems and some were even crashing so I told myself that I was still in a better position than them to complete the race."

"From that point I just tried to convince myself to never give up! Finally I was talking to other athletes during the latter part of the bike course and I felt good. My downhill was awesome and I wished someone took a video because I passed so many people."

Her stomach cramps, however, began to act up again while she was transitioning to the run part of the race.

"I saw Kevin (her husband) come back from the bike but I couldn't say anything. He looked good and fast! But I never forgot about never giving up. So I forced myself to keep running and not walk even if it was slow. The trail was just hot, hot, hot—hotter than Saipan."

Carey even got the chance to douse herself with Gatorade in a premature celebration not of her liking during the run course.

"Some of the aid stations were out of water and they had only Gatorade. But it was still better then getting dehydrated so I poured Gatorade on my head," she said.

While it didn't really quenched her thirst, the move only made her more determined to complete the race.

"So many people were walking uphill but I just kept running. When I ran on the beach I felt I was not moving because the sand was so soft and my feet were sinking into them. Then I came to finish line and I could finally smile!"

"It was hot and hard but fun. I will probably change my mind but I will come back again next year. When I finished, Eli congratulated me and I could finally talk to him and soon Kevin finished too," she said.

While the Oct. 26 World Championships taxed Carey's body to the point of breaking, the Saipan triathlete just took everything in stride and was even surprised by an invitation from an adventure racer at the finish line.

"I had hard races this year, Kansas Ironman, XTERRA Japan, and Maui. But still I like them and I also met a Japanese adventure racer that did GEAR 6 and he told me he is looking for members of his team for next year's event."

With Carey's will and determination, everyone's already counting her in for next year's GEAR 6.

SABLAN

From Page 28

base and pitcher Melvin Tenorio struck out fourth batter Jason Sablan.

The victory improved CUC's record to 1-1, and allowed the team to recover from a disappointing 0-9 loss to Freedom Air.

Custom absorbed its second defeat in as many games after losing its debut over Procurement & Supply, 6-12.

In the other game in the men's division, No Zone topped DEQ/CRM, 19-7, after only four and a half innings.

No Zone started strong, scoring eight runs at the top of the first and followed it up with a nine-run top of the second to break the game wide open after two complete innings, 17-1.

DEQ/CRM had a chance to extend the game at the top of the fifth, but scored only seven runs, allowing No Zone to walk away with an easy victory.

First baseman Bruce Norita was 3-for-3 at the plate and had a homer at the bottom of the second inning. He scored two runs and three RBIs.

Second baseman Ned Norita also had a homer at the bottom of the first and went perfect at-bat, going 3-for-3. He recorded four RBIs.

In the lone women's game, defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs recovered from its debut loss to Northern Marianas College after whipping Commonwealth Health Center, 15-3.

DCCA used a nine-run bottom of the second as cushion to gain its first win this season.

Centerfielder Berta Camacho and third baseman Antonette Laniyo were both 3-for-3 at the plate and had three runs apiece.

CHC scored only at the top of the third inning with Meng Yamada, Bobbie Lee, and Tanisha Masga having one run each. CHC lost its first game joining CUC at the bottom of the team standings

BROTHERHOOD

From Page 28

helped Brotherhood control Game 2.

Sai-Pal lost its chance to force a deciding Game 3 when it scored only one run in the second inning and two in the sixth.

In the other semis match, Man Amigos also had a difficult time thwarting Choll Aces in Game 1, as the former won by only one run, 5-4.

Derron Flores scored the winning run on a Choll Aces' pitching error.

Man Amigos completed the sweep via a 10-3 victory in Game 2.

Third baseman Joey Dela Cruz hit two homers to power Man Amigos to the seven-run win.

Dela Cruz made his first homer at the top of the first inning. Dela Cruz batted third at the top of the first and Man Amigos scored back-to-back homers in that inning when shortstop and fourth Peter Sablan blasted his own round-tripper.

Dela Cruz had another homer in the sixth inning, where Man Amigos pulled away, making six runs.

Dela Cruz went 3-for-4 at-bat in Game 3 and had three RBIs.

Man Amigos and Brotherhood will duel in a best-of-three title series this Sunday.

Game 1 will start at 10am.

The women's division finals will also be played on Sunday after the men's championship with Sakudi aiming for a sweep against the Hitters.

Sakudi took Game 1, 13-4, two weeks ago, getting three runs apiece from Kayla Techur, Pauline Tudela, and Jenny Palacios.

CWGA November ace this Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association November Ace of the Month Tournament will be held this Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(CWGA)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	3	0	1.000	_
Boston	3	1	.750	1/2
Philadelphia	2	2	.500	1 1/2
New Jersey	1	2	.333	2
New York	1	2	.333	2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	2	0	1.000	_
Orlando	2	2	.500	1
Charlotte	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Miami	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Washington	0	2	.000	2

Central Division

Detroit	3	0	1.000	_
Chicago	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Cleveland	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Milwaukee	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Indiana	1	1	.500	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	3	0	1.000	_
Houston	3	1	.750	1/2
Dallas	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Memphis	2	2	.500	1 1/2
San Antonio	0	3	.000	3

Northwest Division

Utah	3	0	1.000	_
Denver	1	2	.333	2
Minnesota	1	2	.333	2
Oklahoma City	1	2	.333	2
Portland	1	2	.333	2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	3	0	1.000	_
Phoenix	3	1	.750	1/2
Golden State	1	3	.250	2 1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	4	.000	3 1/2
Sacramento	0	4	.000	3 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Phoenix 114, New Jersey 86

Boston 103, Houston 99

Dallas 98, San Antonio 81

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Standings

Acme Roofing	9	0
Enyophace	8	1
MHS Peers	6	3
Karakuchi	6	4
Thai One On	6	4
MHS Oakies	5	4
Kimoichi	5	5
Off Twice	4	5
MHS Serves Up!	1	8
Champ-On	1	8
MHS Doh-Fins	0	9

Budweiser Softball Standings

Men's Division

DCCA	1	0
Freedom Air	1	0
DLNR	1	0
Legislature	1	0
Joeten Motors	1	0
P & S	1	0
CPA	1	0
Saipan Cell	1	0
Beach Boys	1	0
Law & Order	1	0
CUC	1	1
No Zone	1	1
PIC	0	1
Mayors	0	1
POI	0	1
PSS	0	1
Hopwood	0	1
CHC	0	1
Customs	0	2
DEQ/CRM	0	2

Women's Division

NMC	1	0
Finance	1	0
DCCA	1	1
CUC	0	1
CHC	0	1

PILCOWA Standings

MIGS	4	1
Century Insurance	3	1
Diamond Auto Care	2	2
Aon Insurance	2	2
C&R/NRG	1	2
Olivos/Reliance Const.	1	3
San Miguel Light	0	4

Jr. Nationals, Rollers I duel for title tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals is eyeing a title-defense, while the Rollers I will aim to regain lost glory in tonight's championship match in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Junior National won last season's championship after slipping past the Southern Sonics, 98-91. The Rollers I (formerly G-Rollers) ruled the 2006 edition of the 18-and-under caging, beating the San Antonio Sixers, 87-79, for the former' first Rotary title.

The Rollers I and the Junior Nationals arranged their title duel after posting contrasting semis wins Monday night.

The Rollers I pulled off a cliff-hanger against the Sixers in the second semis tiff with Rainier Deleon Guerrero canning to free throws in the last 9.8 seconds of the match to lift his team to a 73-71 victory.

The Junior Nationals had an easier time against the G-Stars, notching a 64-53 triumph to gain the first finals berth.

Against the Rollers I, it will be a different story for the Junior Nationals.

"They (Rollers I) obviously have the numbers and the momentum. But I have faith in the boys. If we play our game, which focus is on the paint, and run if there are opportunities, we have a strong chance to retain the title," Junior Nationals coach Rufino Aguon said.

"Since we have a limited lineup, our players need to play smart. Also, even if we defeated the Rollers I in the regular season, we should not be over confident and take our foes for granted. The Rollers I showed they can play against some of the best teams in the league so we have to be careful," Aguon added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Rollers I's Rainier Deleon Guerrero grabs an important rebound in the closing seconds of their semis match against the Sixers Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymasium and later canned two charities to lift his team to a 73-71 win and bring the Rollers I back to the Rotary caging finals.

Aguon will have only six players for the title match. The list include Jericho Cruz, Marvin Rabauliman, Joseph White, Heartim Williams, John Villagomez, and Allen Moses.

Only Moses, Cruz, and Rabauliman were part of last year's champion team. Majority of Aguon's players from a year ago are already over the age limit.

The Rollers I will have an advantage in manpower having a complete roster. But only Don Teregeyo has championship experience in the Rotary caging having played in 2006.

But with or without experience, Rollers I coach Joe Diaz believed his boys are capable of pulling off another upset.

"It's just a matter of believing in themselves. Going out there playing their best, as it boils down to only one game. All the hard work they put on throughout the season will come to only one game, one final effort," Diaz said.

"We will come to the championship game with a lot of confidence after winning a close match against the Sixers and we hope to keep that confidence when we play the top team in the league," Diaz added.

Diaz said with the Junior Nationals' depleted lineup, they will focus their defense more on Cruz and Rabauliman, who are the top two scorers on the team.

Cruz had 30 points in the semis, while Rabauliman added 18.

Teregeyo led the Rollers I against the Sixers, nailing 19 points, while Manny Matagolai chipped in 16.

The title match is set for 7pm after the consolation game between the G-Stars and the Sixers at 5:30pm.

C&R aims to snap skid in San Mig caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

C&R Distributors/NRG hopes to recover from a heartbreaking loss in its previous game when it faces unpredictable Aon Insurance at the resumption of action in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League tonight at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

C&R/NRG lost what could have been a won game over the league-leading MIGS in overtime, 122-125.

The Marvin Deocares-coached C&R/NRG was leading by three points in the closing seconds of the match when MIGS point guard Bonbon Cadagat nailed a triple to send the match in overtime.

In the extension period, C&R/NRG had several chances to claim the win, but Jun Estolas missed a couple of free throws allowing MIGS to escape with a victory.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

C&R/NRG's Jericho Cruz tries to elude two MIGS defenders during their game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan last week.

The loss was C&R/NRG's second in a row and it hopes to end its losing skid against the struggling Aon Insurance.

Aon won its debut against Century Insurance, but dropped its next two games. It regained its form against San Miguel Light pulling off a 94-91 triumph.

Aon Insurance shares the No. 3 spot in the team standings with Diamond Auto Care, while C&R/NRG is half a game behind them with a 1-2 record.

MIGS is pacing the league with a 4-1 record, having absorbed its lone loss in the San Miguel caging at the hands of Century Insurance, 94-98, Sunday night.

MIGS hopes to regain its winning ways on Saturday when it duels Olivos/Realiance Construction, which broke into the win column via a 93-85 upset over Diamond Auto Care last week.

The Olivos-MIGS tiff will be played at 8pm.

In the first game on Saturday at 6:30pm, Century Insurance will go for win No. 4 against Diamond Auto Care.

Sunday's matches will have San Miguel colliding with C&R in the fist game at 5pm, and Aon Insurance battling Diamond Auto Care in the second match at 6:30pm.

2010 Micro Games part of agenda in NMASA meeting

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight, Nov. 6, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

One of the agendas for this evening's meeting is the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. NMASA president Michael White said sports associations that want to send athletes to the Games must signify their intention do so as early as possible.

White

"All federations wishing to participate in the 2010 Micro Games in Palau must confirm, on your letterhead and signed by your president or secretary general, that you are going to participate, and how many athletes (male and female) you are going to send," said White in an email to NMASA member organizations.

The NMASA head and many time chef de mission of the CNMI in the Pacific Games and Micro Games said two other important topics will be in the docket during the meeting tonight.

"There will also be important news about a visit from the Pacific Games secretary general and a delegation from the Pacific Games Noumea 2011 Organizing Committee later this month, and about our request to participate in the East Asian Games," he said.

As always, NMASA member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (October) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student) during the monthly general membership meeting.

NMASA reminds associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting. ***(NMASA)***

Santos spectacular in USSP 8-ball

Dean Santos took two out of three games from Ron Chisato to win the USS Peleliu Club's Monday 8-Ball Tournament.

Chisato moved to the top of the winners' bracket by taking out John Mongami and Taylor Watanabe. Watanabe had defeated Rick Rengiil.

Santos sent Rose Phillips and George Olivares to the losers' bracket for the other slot and sat atop the winners' bracket after his first showdown with Chisato. Olivares had defeated Annie Tesiro.

Phillips eliminated Tesiro, but lost to Watanabe. Rengiil topped Mongami, then fell to Olivares' comeback as the USNS Shasta sailor continued with a close win over Watanabe and an even closer loss to Chisato.

Chisato came out of the losers' bracket with fire in his eyes and grabbed the rematch from Santos with his shot-making. Santos took advantage of a good setup for a four-ball run and the championship in their third matchup.

The players agreed on splitting the pot between first and second place because of the wallet-friendly $5 entry fee.

Sign-up for USSP's Monday 8-Ball Tournament starts at 8pm.

More cash and prizes, including turkeys, are coming up Nov. 26, when USSP holds its annual Marianas Turkey Shoot. The usual double-elimination format will be used for the 8-ball competition.

For more information weekly Monday 8-Ball Tournament and 2008 Marianas Turkey Shoot, call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

Jr. Nationals, Rollers I duel for title tonight

The CNMI Junior Nationals is eyeing a title-defense, while the Rollers I will aim to regain lost glory in tonight's championship match in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bell scores 22 as Suns beat Nets

Raja Bell hit all six of his 3-pointers and scored 22 points, and the Phoenix Suns shot 63 percent from the field in beating the New Jersey Nets 114-86 on Tuesday night. 24

Acme Roofing inches to regular season sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Acme Roofing is a win away from sweeping the regular season of the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League after notching its ninth victory Tuesday night at the PIC sand court.

Acme Roofing topped MHS Serves Up! In the first two sets, 21-19, 21-17, to secure the win. MHS Serves Up recovered in the third set, 17-21, to foil Acme Roofing's shutout bid.

MHS Serves Up! dropped to a 1-8 record, joining Champ-on to the second to the last place in the team standings.

Champ-on (1-8), MHS Serves Up!, and the MHS 67 Doh-Fins are out of contention for playoffs spots.

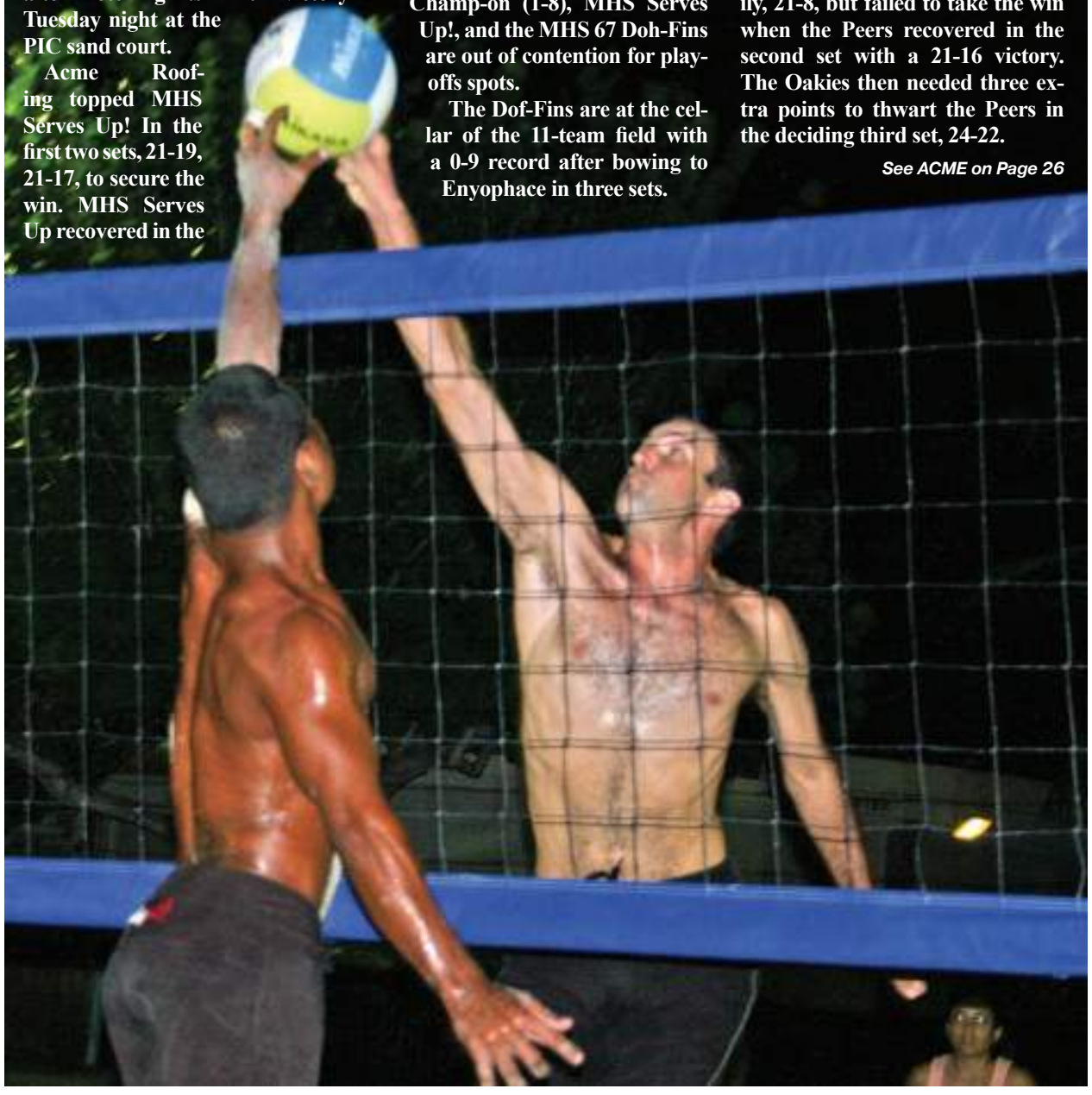
The Dof-Fins are at the cellar of the 11-team field with a 0-9 record after bowing to Enyophace in three sets.

Enyophace's 21-7, 21-7, 21-8 triumph over the Dof-Fins improved the former's record to 8-1 keeping the team in the No. 2 spot in the team standings.

In other results Tuesday night, the MHS Oakies struggled past the MHS Peers.

The Oakies took the first set easily, 21-8, but failed to take the win when the Peers recovered in the second set with a 21-16 victory. The Oakies then needed three extra points to thwart the Peers in the deciding third set, 24-22.

See ACME on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thai One On's Nick Swaim, right, and Karakuchi's Marino Pungilung battle on the net during their game in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League Tuesday night at the PIC sand court

Sablan powers CUC past Customs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Leftfielder Oscar Sablan was on target in his last two at-bats leading the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to a 12-11 win over Customs in the men's division of the 2008-2009 Inter-Government/ Business Softball League Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Sablan's two-run homer at the top of the fifth allowed CUC to grab the lead, and his two-run double at the top of the last preserved the victory.

CUC was behind by three runs, 6-9, after four complete innings when its first two batter reached home to cut the lead to one, 8-9.

Sablan batted fourth and hit a homer driving centerfield Pat Blanco home to put CUC in the lead, 10-9.

Customs regained the upper hand, 11-10, after six complete innings with third baseman Ray Renguul and leftfielder John Reyes scoring a run apiece.

Vinny Sablan led off for CUC at the top of the seventh inning and singled, while Blanco advanced on a Customs fielding error. Next at the plate was Joe Fejeran who was thrown out on a 6-3 putout play.

Sablan stepped up to the plate and with runners on second and third base, blasted a double, bringing Vinny Sablan and Blanco home and giving the lead back to CUC, 12-11.

Two fly outs ended CUC's chances to increase the lead. But it kept the win when Customs first two batters were beaten to first

See SABLAN on Page 26

Mieko almost quit XTERRA World

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Second of a three-part series

Mieko Carey almost did not make it to the winner' circle of this year's XTERRA World Championships in Maui.

In fact, the longtime Saipan resident nearly dropped out of the grueling 0.9-mile swim, 19.1-mile bike, and 6.9-mile run triathlon after suffering from stomach cramps in the two-wheel portion of the Championships.

While Carey did just enough to come in third in the women's 30-34 age group with a time of 3:53:38, the standout multisport athlete was first to admit that the 2008 edition of the XTERRA World Championships was the hardest race she ever took part in.

"It was hard. Of the three years that I had done this race, this was the hardest. I don't know why but I felt physically beat up after the race. The night before the race, I kind of had a bad dream that I was taking part in XTERRA Sport here on Saipan," she said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Carey said the swim split,

See MIEKO on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey takes her place on the stage after finishing third in the 30-34 age group of last Oct. 26's XTERRA World Championships in Maui.

Brotherhood vs Man Amigos in Belau league finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brotherhood and Man Amigos arranged their title showdown in the 2008 BASA Men's Softball League after sweeping their semifinal assignments Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Brotherhood was paired with Sai-Pal in the best-of-three semifinals series and won a low-scoring Game 1, 3-2, to move a win away from gaining the first finals ticket.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Brotherhood's Jerry Ayuyu, seen here in a file photo, connected on a three-run homer in Game 2 of their semis series against Sai-Pal to help his team advance to the finals last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Leftfielder Myron Laniyo blasted a solo homer at the bottom of the fourth inning to put Brotherhood in the lead, 3-2.

Earlier, Brotherhood shut out Sai-Pal in the first two innings, but the latter tied it and took a 2-1 lead at the top of the third after Tyrone Omar and Lefty Shiro scored.

Ken Kalen reached home plate at the bottom of the third on a Jerry Ayuyu sacrifice fly to tie the game.

Brotherhood then shut out Sai-Pal in the last four innings, and Laniyo scored the winning homer.

Brotherhood had an easier time in Game 2, nailing a 9-3 triumph to sweep the series and advance to the finals.

A five-run top of the second anchored by Ayuyu's three-run homer

See BROTHERHOOD on Page 26